



Make a
JOYFUL
noise!

Make
a

Joyful unto the
noise Lord

Psalm 98:4

Equipping Disciples 2015-2016

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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ELDERS

Bill Benson {Visitations}

Vaughn Davisson

Ryan Haack

Myrl Holida

Skip Kempnich

Jeff Kucera

Denny Schrader

Arlan Thompson

Marty Wenck



An elder must be dedicated to God's Word and live as an example to other members. The Elders consists of men elected at the September voters meeting for three-year terms. The terms are staggered; thus, new elders are added regularly. Generally, each elder serves two terms, but the second is strictly voluntary.

Elders assist with worship services in such ways as Holy Communion, Scripture reading, special prayers, and Baptism.

Each elder is assigned a zone consisting of 60-80 member families. Zones are determined alphabetically by last name.

Each elder is responsible as a prayer partner with another committee chair and concerns himself with the spiritual welfare of the person and committee involved.

Regular elder meetings are scheduled at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month.

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What is a Joyful Noise?

Several places in Scripture command us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord (Psalm 66:1; 95:1–2; 100:1; 1 Chronicles 15:16).

The verses that follow explain what that means. For example, Psalm 98:4–6 says, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!”

This psalm goes on to describe the sea roaring, the rivers clapping their hands, and the hills breaking forth in song. The picture is that of all creation joining together in noisy worship of God.

A joyful noise is not merely noise for its own sake. Our world is filled with noise, much of it harmful or distracting.

A joyful noise is a bold declaration of God’s glorious name and nature, with shouts, clapping, and other outward expressions of praise.

A joyful noise often includes music, such as singing, playing instruments, and dancing (Psalm 95:1; 98:6; 149:3; 1 Chronicles 15:28).

While there is a time for quiet reverence in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 5:7; 95:6), God also delights in our outward displays of joyful abandon as we worship Him with all we have.

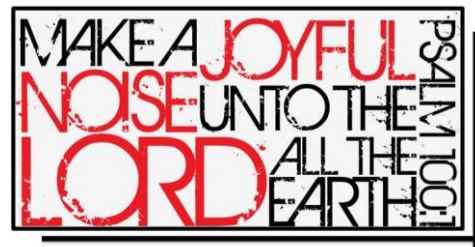
Scripture is filled with examples of God’s servants praising Him in a variety of ways, many of them noisy and active.

- David danced (2 Samuel 6:14)
- Miriam played the tambourine, singing and dancing (Exodus 15:20–21)
- the children of Israel shouted and sang (2 Chronicles 15:14)
- Solomon lifted hands before all the people (1 Kings 8:22)
- Paul and Silas sang loudly in jail (Acts 16:25)
- Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with loud shouts of joy (John 12:13).

Self-centered reserve is usually the motivation that keeps us from singing aloud, dancing for joy, or lifting hands in worship when it is appropriate to do so. We fear that we might be seen as undignified or fanatical. At those times, we are rejecting the opportunity to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Others excuse their lack of joyful noise-making by claiming it is not their personality style. However, most of the people who refuse to make a joyful noise unto the Lord think nothing of shouting, clapping, and cheering at their favorite sporting event or music concert.

This year, this season, this day... Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



[Adapted from www.gotquestions.org]



Stephen Ministry

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is served by several Stephen Ministers.

Their vision statement is **The Our Redeemer Stephen Ministry prepares and supports laity who provide Christ-centered care to people facing a variety of crises or are life challenged.** A crisis, used in this context, is defined as a dangerous or worrying time; that is, a situation or period in which things are very uncertain, difficult, or painful, especially a time when action must be taken to avoid a complete disaster or breakdown. It is not a foreshadowing of doom, but a time of unbalance, where the trusting relationship between the affected person and God is strained by preoccupation with worldly concerns.

Stephen Ministry can help the person in crisis by establishing a safe haven based upon the love of Christ and the compassion of an empathetic and understanding Christian willing to help the affected work through his/her imbalance through active listening and thoughtful sharing of life experiences, allowing the person to again feel the healing power of Christ's love within his/her life.

Implicit in this arrangement is a process-oriented relationship, not an outcome-based arrangement.

WE CARE, CHRIST CURES!

Contact the church office if you have an interest in the Stephen Minister program at 338-5626 or contact one of your Stephen Minister trainers:

Pastor Brent Hartwig	338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Kathy Schweer	466-3084
Kevin Sellers	339-9804



CHRISTMAS & COOKIES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Members of Our Redeemer gather together for food, fun, and fellowship. Whether it is appetizers, pizza, or potluck, this group will dine together. Decorating Christmas cookies, to take home and give away, will be the main activity. God’s Word will be shared before the evening is done.

MIDWEEK EVENTS

As Psalm 119:105 says, “*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*” Join us for many midweek programs for all ages!

MIDWEEK EVENING SCHEDULE

6:00	Meal on select evenings
6:45	Little Lambs (2 yrs-K)
	CrossTown (Grades 1-2)
	Faith Explorers (Grades 3-5)
	Confirmation Classes (6-8)
	High School
7:00	Adult Classes
	Adult Choir
8:00	End of Evening

CANCELLATION

The Midweek Programs will follow the same cancellation pattern as the Iowa City School system. If the Iowa City Schools have canceled class for the day, we will cancel any meals and classes. We will also use Channel 9 KCRG to post a cancellation.

Use your best judgment if class is not canceled. We recognize that many of you are dealing with different driving conditions in and outside of Iowa City.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration materials are available in the church office. Scholarships are available.

MIDWEEK MEALS

Congregational meals are scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month. (These are in addition to congregational Advent and Lent meals.) A free-will offering will be collected at the door to help cover the costs of the meal. All confirmation (6th-8th grade) families will be assigned a night to set up / clean up.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Wednesday, April 6, 2016



PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Pancake Day has been a long-standing tradition at Our Redeemer. Originally, Pancake Day supported our 511 Melrose mission effort. For the last few years, it has supported the Johnson County Crisis Center. Come help to make, serve, and clean-up the pancakes. At least come to eat them. Yum!

Parade Party



Come on **Thursday, September 24** at **5:30 p.m.** to the church parking lot to watch the **Homecoming Parade**.

Bring your own chairs or blankets to sit curbside.

Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served in the parking lot.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE



CHALLENGE

October 11, 2015 & April 10, 2016
Following Late Service

What is the Trivia Challenge?

Trivia challenges are informal, fun competitions where teams battle to see who has the greatest knowledge of trivia.

General knowledge and trivial interest questions are asked by a trivia host and the winner is the team which, at the end of the event, has correctly answered the most number of questions.

How does the Trivia Challenge work?

The events themselves are quite simple. You gather a group of 8 participants to form a team.

The challenge is run in rounds. During each round the host asks a series of ten questions per round. The teams discuss the answers at their table and the teams record their answers on their score sheet.

At the conclusion of each round the sheets are collected and checked for accuracy. Meanwhile, the answers are revealed to the participants.

At the conclusion of the seven rounds, total scores are added up and a traveling trophy is awarded to the winning team.

What do we eat?

We will begin this event with a potluck of appetizers and hors d'oeuvres that can be snacked upon throughout the challenge.

Invite your friends and family, form a team, and host a party where the place and the entertainment are provided.

***THIS EVENT IS EXCELLENT
FOR OUTREACH!***

Contact the church office at 338-5626 for more information.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Sunday, October 25, 2015

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

With optional Potluck Dinner to follow

What is a Trunk-or-Treat? It's when several congregational members and committees get together at church, park their cars in the parking lot, open up the trunks of their cars, and kids come to each car to Trunk-or-Treat. For the second year we will be opening our Fellowship Hall for a Chili dump for dinner from 5:00pm till 5:30pm.



1. Register children to be Trick-or-Treaters
2. Register your car, mini-van, or truck to give out candy. *Vehicles should be decorated with a unique theme. Make sure you bring enough candy or treats for everyone. You don't have to have children to register your vehicle.*
3. Register if you can bring chili or a side.
Church will provide the drinks.

Join us for this fun event!

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

The Bible is the only source of knowledge of how to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no such thing as "love at first sight" in spiritual things. The believer must get to know Christ very well, and this requires the daily intake of knowledge about Christ through the Word of God, which is "the mind of Christ."

1 Cor. 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Phil. 3:10 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death."

Bible knowledge produces sanity and stability of mind. It is very important to get the Word of God into the mind before the times of pressure come. It is not too likely that an unstable person will respond to the Word of God. God deals with the pressures of life using "preventive maintenance".

James 1:8 "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Bible doctrine is the basis for divine guidance.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of

God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

John 14:23 "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loves me not keeps not my sayings; and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father which sent me."

Daily Bible study leads to occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ, a daily walk with the Savior.

Heb. 12:2, 3 "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds."

Bible doctrine, learned under the faith principle of applied teaching, produces confidence during the believer's lifetime.

2 Cor. 5:6-8 "Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, and not by sight). We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

The Bible is the only source of God's viewpoint.

Isaiah 55:7-9 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him; and

to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

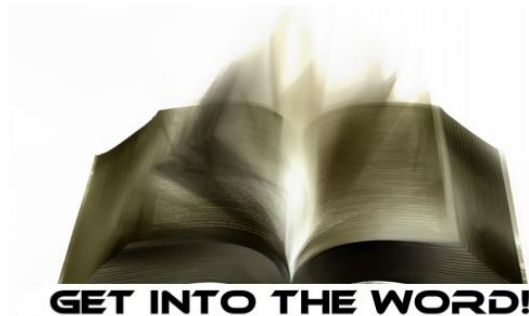
Bible doctrine is the basis for orientation to God's plan during the believer's lifetime.

Isaiah 26:3, 4 "The one who is steadfast of mind thou wilt keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in thee. Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord, we have an everlasting rock."

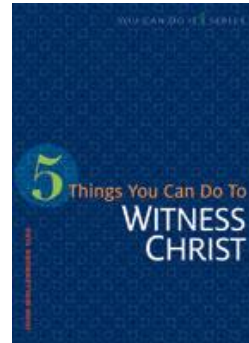
Without the Word of God, the believer's mind will be corrupted by Satan and will become a repository of world-viewpoint and false teaching.

2 Cor. 11:3 "But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

<http://christianityinview.com/biblestudies/importance.html>



BIBLE STUDIES



5 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO WITNESS CHRIST

September 16 - October 14
Wednesday nights (5 sessions)
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

For all the baptized, witnessing Christ is supposed to be part of our way of life. We are given to share our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, with anyone God allows us to meet. Yes, it can be intimidating. Surprisingly, it gets easier as you do it more often.

This volume will equip you to:

- Witness Christ where He speaks and works
- Witness Christ using Law and Gospel
- Witness Christ's justification in Word and Sacraments
- Witness Christ in words and deeds
- Witness Christ on the front lines



BASICS OF THE FAITH

Appropriately titled, this course begins a six unit examination of the basics of the Christian Faith. Taken from the Bible and as understood by the Lutheran Church, we will explore the role of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The revelation of God through the Bible and the role of the catechism will be discussed first. The Biblical message of Law and Gospel will be detailed. Finally, we will end with discussing the victorious and sanctified life of the Christian.

Fall

September 18 - 19, 2015

Weekend Immersion

Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm

Winter

February 5 - 6, 2016

Weekend Immersion

Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm

Spring

May 13 - 14, 2016

Weekend Immersion

Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm

Building up the Body

through

GOD'S WORD

BUILDING UP THE BODY

Sunday Bible Class

Fellowship Hall

Continues through December 20, 2015

9:30 am – 10:15am

No class September 6, December 27

Final Building Up the Body Session

January 3, 2016

Council and Creeds

January 10-February 21

If someone were to ask a Christian today, “how do you know what it is that you believe about Jesus,” one would likely point to the Bible or the historic creeds as fundamental references. But there was a time, in the early church, when Christians did not have the benefit of the creeds, and the document we know as the New Testament did not exist! This time period was one of great theological strength where the foundational beliefs of the church were debated and classified.

These seven ecumenical councils are:

First Council of Nicaea (325)

First Council of Constantinople (381)

Council of Ephesus (431)

Council of Chalcedon (451)

Second Council of Constantinople (553)

Third Council of Constantinople (680)

Second Council of Nicaea (787)



Denominations Around our Town

February 28-April 10

Drive around America and you will see that churches are plentiful. There is a variety to select from, and in our consumeristic mentality, churches lining Main Street are no different than a variety of laundry soaps in the discount stores aisle.

It's easy to think all Christians believe the same thing, the same doctrine, but the differences are astounding. Baptism, Communion, and free will are all examples of some of the major differences among Christian denominations.

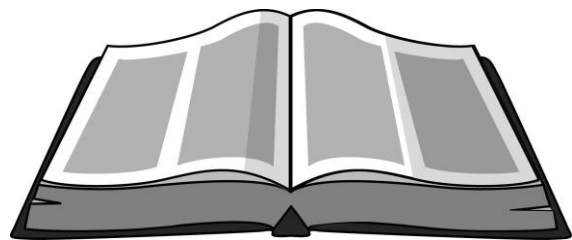
In *Denominations Around Our Town*, the teachings of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and other Christian denominations are examined and compared. Students develop a deeper understanding of the similarities as well as the differences that exist between Christian denominations.

General Epistles

**Every other Wednesday
before Lunch Bunch
11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

For the last year we have been working through the General Epistles. The eight letters of Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, and 1, 2 & 3 John, and Jude are often called the General (or Catholic) Epistles because they seem to speak to the Christian church in general, rather than to individual churches. They are also united by their interest in practical matters such as organizational leadership, hard work, fairness, good relationships, and effective communication.

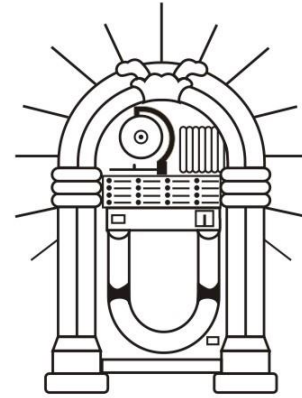
The General Epistles reflect the essential challenge Christians faced in the Roman Empire — how to follow Jesus in a tough environment. Early Christians faced problems such as slavery, favoritism, and abuse by the rich and powerful. They dealt with harsh words and conflicts. They dealt with the real tensions between ambition and dependence on God, and the fear that doing things God's way would put them in conflict with those in authority. In general, they felt a sense of alienation living and working in a world that seemed incompatible with following Jesus.



God in the Jukebox

April 17-May 29

God. The Big Guy. The Man Upstairs. The Creator and Ruler of the Universe. Anyway you express the idea of God, the fact remains that God has made quite a few appearances in popular music through the decades, being as he is an important aspect of human existence. Rap, Rock, Pop or Country music, God doesn't escape the attention of songwriters. Some artists declare their own faith in all of His mysterious works. Others look upon God as being a figment of the imagination, or a cruel hoax of humanity's own making. Still others associate God with the idea of an ideal version of how the world should be if we were to be more godlike. Join us as we listen to songs, study the lyrics, and evaluate how the Christian faith is expressed in song. Does it align with Scripture?

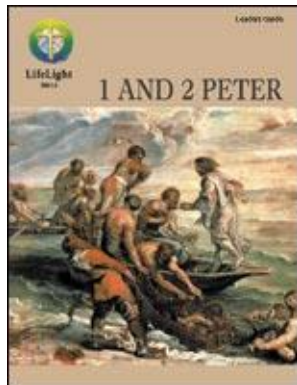


LIFELIGHT SERIES:

1st & 2nd Peter

October 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18;
December 2, 9, 16; January 6
Wednesday Nights (9 sessions)
7: 00 PM – 8: 00 PM

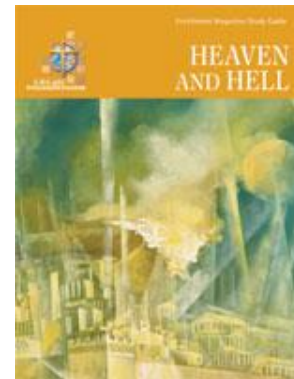
This study is part of the *LifeLight* Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of *LifeLight* is that through a regular program of in-depth and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

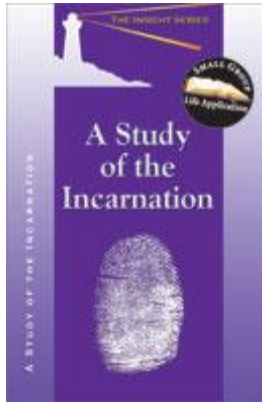


Heaven and Hell

January 13, 20, 27; February 3, 17, 24; March
2, 9, 30
Wednesday Nights (9 sessions)
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

This study is part of the *LifeLight* Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of *LifeLight* is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible study will focus on Heaven and Hell and what happens when Christians and non-Christians die.





A Study of the Incarnation

April 6, 13, 20, 27

Wednesday Nights (4 sessions)

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Discover the greatest mystery on earth—the incarnation of Jesus Christ as God and man. It is a mystery too deep for the human mind to understand fully, yet it has enormous practical value for the Christian life. A Study of the Incarnation will help open up the wonder of the incarnation to you, that you may draw strength for your faith and daily life.

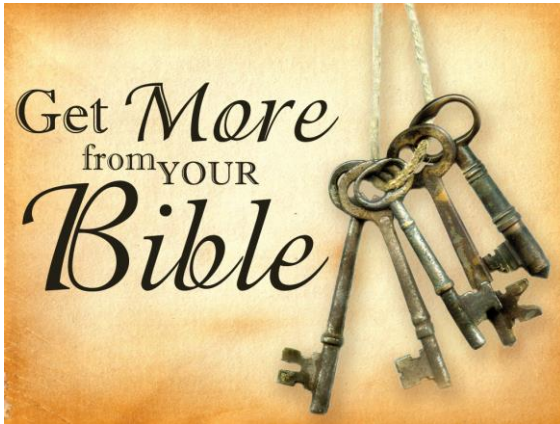
Session 1: The Presence of God

Session 2: Why God Became Man

Session 3: Why Not an Angel

Session 4: Where the Lord May Be Found

Bible Studies at a Glance



SUNDAY MORNING

The Bible study time is offered between the Sunday services for convenience. Either attend the Bible study before or after you attend a Worship Service. Adult classes are held each Sunday morning. The schedule of courses follows.

January 2014 – December 2015

Building up the Body through God's Word

*No Sunday School and Bible Class on
September 6, 2015 (Labor Day)
December 27, 2015 (Christmas Weekend)
March 27, 2016 (Easter Sunday)
May 15, 2016 (Graduation Breakfast)
June 5, 2016 (Christ Cares Sunday)*

January 10-February 21

Council and Creeds

February 28-April 10

Denominations Around our Town

April 17-May 29

God in the Jukebox

WEDNESDAY MORNING

On Wednesday mornings, every other week, a Bible study class is offered prior to our Lunch Bunch program.

SCHEDULE

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

WEDNESDAY EVENING

On Wednesday evenings, a Bible study class is offered for adults as a part of our Midweek program.

September 16-October 14

5 Things You Can Do to
Witness Christ

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

October 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 9, 16; January 6

Lifelight: 1st and 2nd Peter

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

January 13, 20, 27; February 3, 17, 24; March 2, 9, 30

Lifelight: Heaven and Hell


7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

April 6, 13, 20, 27

A Study of the Incarnation

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS:
ONE BOOK, ONE CONGREGATION, ONE BODY**

**Building
up the
Body**
through
GOD'S  **WORD**

Continuing through 2015
Wrap Up January 3, 2016

Ephesians 4:11–16

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up the body of Christ**, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

GOALS for BUILDING THE BODY



- ✘ **Change our Bible habits to be daily in the Word.**
- ✘ **Be more skilled in applying the Scripture to our daily lives so that we may grow in our faith.**
- ✘ **Discussion of Scripture becomes commonplace in our fellowship.**
- ✘ **Members of Our Redeemer are encouraged to bring their Bible with them to church so that it becomes an everyday tool in our parish life.**
- ✘ **Be armed for spiritual warfare through memorization of Scripture passages.**

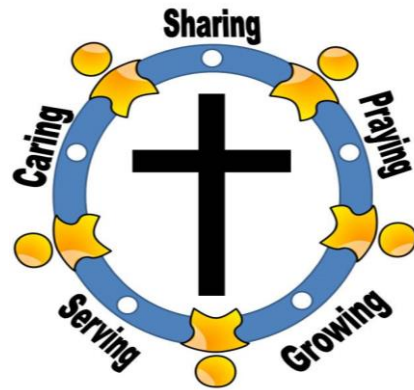
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Building
 up the
Body
 through
GOD'S WORD

BUILDING UP THE BODY
Sunday Bible Class
Fellowship Hall
9:30 am – 10:15am

Aug 31-Sept 6	Romans 15- 1 Corinthians 9
Sept 7-13	1 Corinthians 10- 2 Corinthians 7
Sept 14-20	2 Corinthians 8- Galatians 3
Sept 21-27	Galatians 4-Ephesians 3
Sept 28 - Oct 4	Ephesians 4- Philippians 3
Oct 5-11	Philippians 4- 1 Thessalonians 1
Oct 12-18	1 Thessalonians 2- 2 Thessalonians 3
Oct 19-25	1 Timothy-2 Timothy 2
Oct 26 - 31	2 Timothy 3-Philemon
Nov 1-8	Hebrews 1-7
Nov 9-15	Hebrews 8-13
Nov 16-22	James 1-Peter 1
Nov 23-29	1 Peter 2-2 Peter 2
Nov30-Dec 6	2 Peter 3-1 John 5
Dec 7-13	2 John-Revelation 3
Dec 14-20	Revelation 4-11
Dec 21-27	Revelation 12-19:10
Dec 28-31	Revelation 19:11-22

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Mission Statement

*To grow in grace,
 Using our spiritual gifts,
 Through good stewardship
 For the benefit of the group
 So that the body of Christ may be built up.*

Like nothing else, Small Groups have the power to change lives. They're the ideal route to discipleship – a place where the rubber of Biblical truth meets the road of human relationships.

Small Groups are intentionally formed “communities of care” of 4-12 people that share a common interest and meet regularly in their homes around Scripture, prayer, service, and concern and support for one another.

Small Group Ministry (SGM) has been around Our Redeemer in some shape or form for many years. Small Groups emulate the following five characteristics:

CARING

A small group provides an environment by which members in the group are cared for and nurtured by one another. This includes prayer support, phone calls, encouragement and resources that will help meet the group members' care needs.

SHARING

A small group provides a friendly and supportive atmosphere where members can safely share joys and concerns, knowing that what is said will be treated with sensitivity and will be kept in confidence.

PRAYING

A small group supports each other by praying with one another and for one another as a key part to the growth of relationships.

GROWING

A small group nurtures spiritual growth through time spent together in the Word, contributing to the growth and maturity of each group member.

SERVING

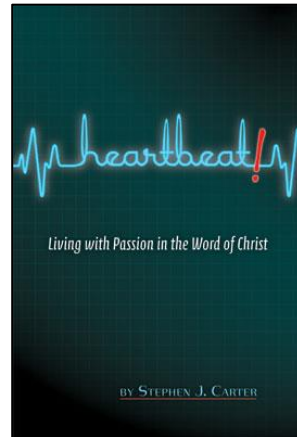
A small group selects service activities that benefit the church and the community. This strengthens group relationships while reaching out to others in need.

CURRENT GROUPS

We currently have several small groups meeting at Our Redeemer. Contact Denise Holida, church extension 35 or email at smallgroups@ourredeemer.org.

BOOK CLUB

This year, members of Our Redeemer will explore the Christian message in ***Heartbeat!*** We will study Christian spirituality and living with passion in the word of Christ. The books will be available, along with a discussion guide for self-study on the dates given for each.



HEARTBEAT!

Living with Passion in the Word of Christ
by Stephen J. Carter

October 13, 27 & November 10
7:00 – 9:00 pm

This book's title—Heartbeat!—provides imagery for daily and lifelong living with passion for Christ. Physically, you live only because your heart beats twenty-four hours a day, every day, as long as you live. The heart continually pumps blood to all parts of the body and helps the returning blood be cleansed in the lungs and sent out again. Truly, life is in the blood. Physically, God created your heart to beat every moment and throughout your lifespan. Heartbeat!

This Christ-help book intends to let the Word of Christ speak to your heart through the stories of God's people in the Bible and in today's world so that you may be encouraged and strengthened to live with passion for Christ daily and throughout your life. Read and discover the Word of Christ in new ways, learn to live deeply in that Word, and be led by God's Spirit to live God's passion for the world with new eyes and a willing heart.

Now God's secret unfolds as your Heartbeat! adventure begins.

Part 1: Seeking Godly Passion in Our Lives

Part 2: Pursuing Passions That Drain and Lead to Bondage

Part 3: Confessing Ungodly Pursuits

Part 4: Discovering the Word of Christ

Part 5: Living Deeply in the Word of Christ

Part 6: Living God's Passion for the World

NOTE: *The fact that members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church are reading these books does not indicate that these books are in alignment with the doctrine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The discussion guides will discuss doctrinal accuracy and heresy or errors.*

COMFORT-TIERS

This is a small group of women who meet in the Fellowship Hall and tie comforters for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and other charities.

The group meets on Thursdays from 9:00 am – noon. Anyone is welcome to come and help tie for an hour or two or all day. We sometimes use one person to just sit and thread needles for us. We elevate

the tables to prevent backaches. Coffee is provided. We sometimes go out to eat together once a month

If you wish to donate towards the making of these comforters, donations of fabric are welcomed with open arms! We can use:

- Any size or condition (torn, mended, stained--just washed) of old sheets, blankets, draperies, curtains, tablecloths, pillowcases, linens.
- Newer fabric such as yard lengths of 45" fabric (minimum of 3 1/2 yards while 60" fabric requires 2 1/2 yards) or newer sheets or draperies.
- Sewing scraps of any size. Even satiny linings and other silky fragile materials go into the 'middles' for a third layer that helps sift out sand during sand storms if that particular comforter goes to a desert area.
- Unmendable or outdated clothing: We tear out the backs of the legs of slacks. We cut off seams of shirts and blouses, even T-shirts, etc. to use the fabric. Some of our comforter tops have pockets included on them and/or a button or two.
- Old blankets: Worn old ones go into the comforters as 'middles'.
- Heavy crochet thread to tie with. Any yarns are used for crocheting baby sweaters for LWR or knit caps for UI Hospital babies.
- Sewing thread (not quilting thread) of any color, any leftover or new spools.

Monetary donations are always welcome. Make checks payable to Our Redeemer Women's Mission Guild and enter for the Comfort-tiers on the Memo line.

You can give the check to any active Guild member. We shop at thrift stores, store sales, and garage sales to make the money go further. Or you might like to shop yourself. Questions? Call Lillian Moyer at 354-5644 or Carol Schuldt at 338-4806. Thank you!

LUNCH BUNCH

This is a group of approximately 20 members who meet every other Wednesday at 12:00 pm for lunch in the church fellowship hall or other places the group wishes to visit. There is a short devotion followed by lunch and a brief group meeting to share ideas and plans for the next meeting. Members and friends of all ages are welcome.

The main dish is provided. People bring potluck or contribute toward the cost of the main dish. For more information, contact Betty Redeker 337-9051 or Kathy Schweer at 466-3084.

... as newborn babies, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
1 Peter 2:2

Before you feed on food for your physical body, come early to the Midweek Bible study. By feeding on God's word we will become mature Christians. As believers we have a hunger that can only be satisfied by God's word, anything else will leave us feeling hungry. So join us at 11:00 am as we study the General Epistles verse by verse.

SPORTS MINISTRIES

This is another opportunity for Christian fellowship at Our Redeemer. This past year we have participated in church league co-ed softball. We will be looking for more opportunities in the future and would love to have you join us! Contact the church office for more information (338-5626).

THEOLOGY 101



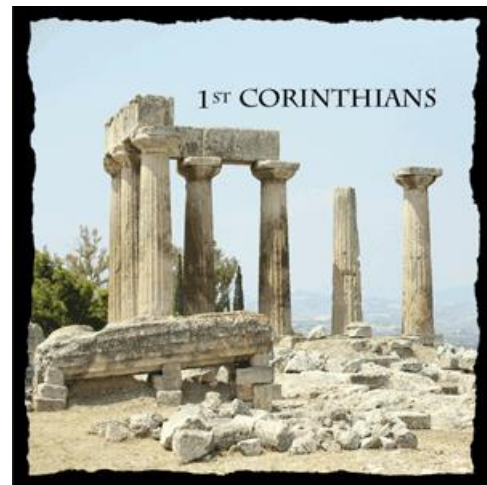
THEOLOGY 101

The word theology is derived from two Greek words: *Theos* (God) and *Logos* (work, speech or reason). Therefore, theology in its simplest terms is rational discussion about God. It has been described as “the science of God and his relationship to man and the world” and “the attempt to reduce religious truth to an organized system.”

This year's study will focus upon Christology using the book titled “Christology” by David P. Scaer. The book follows the outline and thought pattern of the Lutheran Confessions found in the “Book of Concord”. Biblical in its presentation, “Christology” describes the historic Christological controversies as well as more recent debates concerning the person of Jesus. Faithful to the historic and

orthodox understanding of the incarnation, the two natures in Christ, the atonement and the resurrection, Scaer's treatment is at the same time fresh and persuasive.

Date	Topic (7:00 – 9:00 pm)
September 17	Past and Present Christological Controversies
October 15	The Preexistence and Incarnation of the Son of God
November 19	The Virgin Birth of Christ
December 3	Christology in the Preaching of Jesus
January 28	The Implications of the Personal Union
February 22	The Sacrificial Death of Christ
March 31	Christ's Descent into Hell
April 21	The Resurrection of Christ
May 19	The Ascension and Second Coming of Christ



BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

2nd Corinthians

**Typically the 2nd and 4th Saturdays
of each month
8:00 – 9:30 am**

[check the monthly calendar for any updates to time and dates]

The Christians in Corinth faced many of the conflicts that Christians today encounter as they seek to live their faith in a culture that contradicts Christian beliefs and principles. It is a practical letter, written by a real person to real people, presenting everyday problems confronting Christians in the world. It is helpful, supplying God's answers to daily problems.

***Yes, guys! There is homework.
But not too much at this pace!***

During the study, we will discuss the completed questions as well as the implications of the text in our daily lives.

THE THREE G'S (GUYS GROWING IN GOD)

Men of Our Redeemer and men of our community meet for a monthly morning breakfast and practical life application Bible study on the first Saturday of each month at 7:30 am at Hy-Vee.

The goals are to equip men, enabling them to move toward mature discipleship of Jesus Christ and to serve their church, family, and community more fully.

Other activities include trips to major men's conferences, local Hawkeye events, concerts, and service events for the church and community.

This men's group is open to all men. Contact Tom Strumpel at 627-4322.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE (LLL)

In 1917, a group of 12 men attending a convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Milwaukee met to settle a \$100,000 debt incurred by the church body. They accomplished that goal, and in the process formed the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL). The LLL next raised more than \$2.7 million to fund a pension plan for professional church workers.

Our Redeemer members of LLL meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, four months a year at 7:30 pm for business, special programs, and fellowship. Meetings are held during the months of January, March, May, and October.

The LLL Steak Cookout happens yearly on the fourth Tuesday of August at 6:30 pm. This cookout is at Our Redeemer. Men bring their own meat and a dish to share. The coals on a hot grill will be ready.

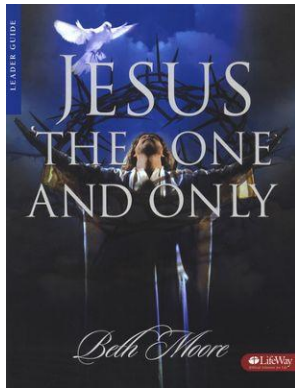
One important outreach ministry this group supports is 511 Melrose, the meeting place for Iowa City Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

All men over age 18 are encouraged to join. Contact Jerry Sexton at 629-5422 for more information.



MEN AT THE CROSS

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN



**Jesus The One and Only
By Beth Moore**

Join us this year as we study the life of Jesus based on the book of Luke. This in-depth Bible study will give us a close-up and personal portrait of the life of Jesus the Messiah through weekly personal assignments and 11 video sessions taped on location in Jerusalem and throughout Israel.

Tuesday Mornings 10:00 AM – 12: 00 PM

- September 15, 22
- October 6, 20
- November 3, 17
- December 1, 15
- January 12, 26
- February 9, 23
- March 8, 22
- April 5

Thursday Evenings 7: 00 PM – 9: 00 PM

- September 10, 24
- October 8, 22
- November 12
- December 10
- January 14, 28
- February 11, 25
- March 10

MISSION

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

Our Redeemer's Women's Mission Guild is a part of the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League, known as LWML. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

OUR PURPOSE is...

- To help women grow spiritually;
MISSION INSPIRATION
- To encourage and equip women to reach out in love;
MISSION EDUCATION
- To provide opportunities for helping others;
MISSION SERVICE

OUR GOAL is to involve all women of Our Redeemer, each affirming her relationship with God so she is enabled to use her gifts in serving the Lord with gladness. We like to refer to ourselves as Lutheran Women in Mission.

MEETINGS

Our Lutheran Women Missionary League or Mission Guild typically meets the third Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. At most of the meetings, we have devotion, Bible study, speaker or mission project, and a snack. A collection for mites and one for general offering are taken.

LWML SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Within this group are many smaller groups that serve our congregation in the mission to further the Word. These sometimes are ordinary things. You can send a faith-based greeting card from our Card Shoppe or assist the church library ladies in processing new items.

We have a faithful group of ladies that help serve at funeral lunches or other serving events.

One of our most productive groups is the Comfort-Tiers. This dedicated bunch of stitchers can provide World Relief or local charities with more comfort quilts than you could imagine. World Relief efforts are a big part of our mission here. We have two large donations every year.

SUPPORTING MISSIONS

Through our two major annual fun-draisers, the Cookie Walk in December and the Tasting Bee in the spring, we provide funds to several local, national, and international mission projects. One project is camperships to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca for Our Redeemer members. Campers are eligible for one third of the cost, up to \$60. Call Linda Diggelmann at 594-6908.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

December 5, 2015



On the first Saturday of December the LWML hosts a Cookie Walk. Dozens upon dozens of cookies, every kind you can think of, cover over 80 feet of table space. These cookies are sold for \$6 per pound. If you think the line-up of cookies is long, you should see the line-up at the door. Each year, many people come for these wonderful homemade treats.

Your help is needed:

1. Pray that the attendees might see Christ's light in us while they are shopping.
2. Pull out your favorite recipes and prepare to bake. We encourage each family to bake four or more dozen cookies. If you like a challenge, bake one more dozen than you did last year.
3. Help advertise by placing posters at your workplace and/or local shops.
4. Prayerfully consider giving of your time to assist with set-up, greeting our guests, or cleaning up the crumbs left behind.

2015-2016 LWML SCHEDULE

September 14 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

September 18, 19

Fall Retreat – Camp IoDisECA

Waterloo Zone hosts "Reaping the Bounty of God's Love"

September 21 6:00 pm
Salad Potluck - Report on Des Moines
National Convention

October 11
LWML Sunday - *"Seek First the Kingdom of
God"*
Assist at Sunday services - Bake sale

October 12 LWR Packing 6:30 pm
Board Meeting 7:00 pm

October 17 **World Relief Pickup**

October 19 7:00 pm
TBA

October 24 **Fall Zone Rally**
King of Kings, Cedar Rapids

November 9 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

November 16 5:00 pm
Serve Meal at Hope Lodge

December 5 9:00 AM – 11:00 am
Christmas Cookie Walk
Chairs: Brenda Johnson, Betty Kelly

December 7 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

December 14 7:00 pm
LWML Christmas Party

December 16 5:10 pm
Advent Supper – Serving Committee

January 2015 No Meetings

February 8 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

February 15 7:00 pm
Erica Davisson – *"Heart to Heart"*

February 17 5:10 pm
Lenten Meal - Serving Committee

March 14 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

March 21 7:00 pm
Vicar Adelsen – Bible Study

April TBA **Spring Zone Rally**

April 11 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

April 16 11:00 am
Fundraising Event - TBA

April 11 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

April 18 7:00 pm
Irene Reinking - *"Liberia Partnership"*

April TBA
Spring World Relief pickup

May 9 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
2016-2017 Calendar Planning

May 18 6:00 pm
Guild Night Out – Cedar Ridge Winery,
Swisher

June 17-18
LWML District Convention – William
Penn, Oskaloosa Theme – *"The Ultimate
GPS: God's Plan of Salvation"*

July No meetings

August 8 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

August **Road Trip** - TBA

LWML IOWA EAST DISTRICT CONVENTION

June 17-18, 2016
William Penn
Oskaloosa, Iowa



Keynote speaker – Janice Wendorf



Hosted by the Marshalltown Zone

MITE BOX

What is a “Mite Box”? Recall the Biblical account of the poor widow who gave two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”* Mk 12

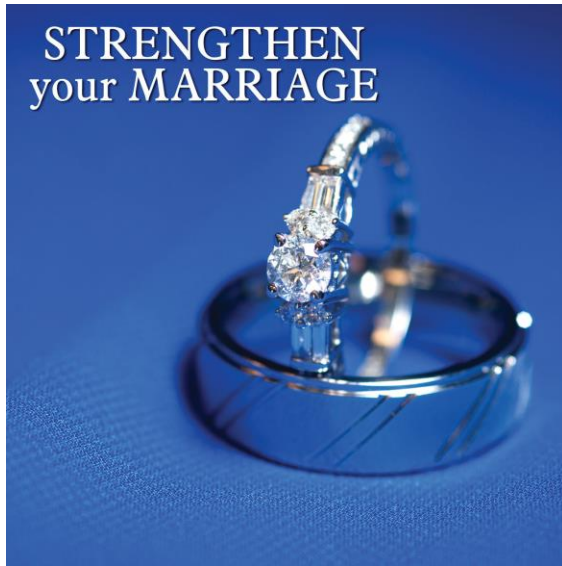
These are the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters saved from day to day. Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. 75% of these monies go to the LWML District East for its biennial mission projects, the other 25% goes to the National organization for its biennial mission projects.

WATCH FOR EVENTS!

Meetings and events will appear in the *Reflections* and *Beacon*. Please plan to attend any get-together; you are already a member!

CONTACT

Any questions, contact Cheryl Davisson at 319-648-4660.



STRENGTHEN
your MARRIAGE

Marriage Retreat Weekend:

Marriage retreat is an opportunity for couples to strengthen their marriage and rekindle the romance. Continue to invest in your marriage and discover the keys to make your marriage last a lifetime.

January 15/16, 2016

YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY

College and post-college young adults make up this group. The Young Adults meet for Bible study and monthly social activities.

Hawkeye Tailgating

Saturday, September 19

2:00 pm

Bring a dish and/or beverage to share

*Watch for details in **Reflections***

Iowa vs. Pittsburgh at 7:00 pm

Colonial Lanes Bowling

Tuesday, September 29

7:00 pm

Caroling/Christmas Party

Date TBD

Live Nativity Caroling

Sunday, December 13

4:00-6:00 pm

Bible Study

Sundays

4:00 pm

Led by Vicar Adelsen

Topic and dates TBD

For more information contact:

Erica Davisson 319-541-7242

eadaviss11@gmail.com

Mission Statement

Through God, as youth of Our Redeemer we will build a faith community that identifies our God-given talents which trains and equips our youth in living and sharing what they believe and serves the congregation and community.

Key Verse

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." ~

Romans 12:4-5

Expectations

In order to create such an environment where we all feel welcome, we need to set rules for ourselves. God has already set a standard for us to live by.

Things We Get To Do Because Jesus Loved Us First

- 1. We get to wear our shoes at all times when outside!** God has given us many wonderful critters, like bees and wasps. We do not want to be stung by them.
- 2. We get to wear appropriate clothes at all times!** God has entrusted us with these bodies to be temples that reflect Christ, so let us not wear revealing clothes. This also includes while we are serving the Lord, we get to take care of our bodies and not put harmful toxins into them such as smoke, drugs, or alcohol.
- 3. We get to take care of God's creation!** God has created many wonderful things in nature. He has given us trees, animals, plants, and many kinds of birds. To honor them and Him, we get to be kind to our nature friends by not harming or destroying them.
- 4. We get to stay away from unsafe activities!** When exploring new places it is best to travel in threes or fours with a chaperone. We may be riding a bus or in a car, but we will respect the driver and all the other passengers by not being rambunctious. We get to wait until our counselor is ready to go in order to participate in any activity. We also get to leave anything home that could be considered a weapon.
- 5. We get to stay healthy!** We want to make sure everyone has the best time possible with us. If you do not feel well, or you feel that something just isn't right, let an adult know!
- 6. We get to respect others!** Our wonderful Father has made us all unique. We get to respect each other's opinions and actions. To honor us all we will give each other privacy when sleeping in separate rooms and keep our arms, hands, and feet to ourselves. We are continually Building up the Body of Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions. When talking to leaders we will listen to their words and what they ask of us, because God gave them to us to help us lead a worry-free life.
- 7. We get to respect our surroundings!** God has granted us a time of opportunity to be in "another world" so we get to clean up after we leave.

CONFIRMATION

In preparation for full communing membership in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, the 6th through 8th graders enter a covenant relationship with the Lord and His church.

The purpose of the covenant relationship is to remind you of your special status as baptized children of God and prepare you for full membership in the church.

It is expected that you will partner with your parents and the other members of the church to grow in your relationship with God and the church.

An important element of your spiritual growth will continue to come from regular attendance at worship and Sunday school, both during and after confirmation.

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION IS SPECIFIC FOR EACH GRADE:

- Sixth Graders...** Explore our history through learning about creation, fall & rescue, the flood, how God's children have been and are delivered through God's Law and Gospel.
- Seventh Graders...** Dive into The 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and Baptism.
- Eighth Graders...** Discover the Creeds, the Office of the Keys and Confession, and the Lord's Supper.

A small set of events and activities will be required to help measure progress.

1. Attend confirmation class regularly and complete homework, memory, and other assigned projects.
2. Complete and turn in 16 Family Worship Notes.
3. Complete and pass all classroom tests.
4. Participate in a special fall retreat (7th and 8th grade).
5. Participate in a confirmation Spiritual Growth Event (8th grade).

Successful completion of confirmation instruction as described above is an important milestone in your spiritual life and should involve cooperation with your parents, teachers, Pastors, elder, and peers.

Parents: Meet with your child's teachers at least once a year formally, to be in constant communication about your child's growth.



OUR REDEEMER KIDS CONFIRMATION (ORKS)

Our Redeemer KidS is a Ministry for 6th – 8th grade youth and their families. Our ministry tries to provide a safe environment in which to have fun while walking your faith journey with your Savior, Jesus Christ. In every activity we focus on creating a safe place to hang out and serve in Christian love. Every month of the school year there is an event that you can participate in besides attending weekly Sunday School and confirmation classes. As an active member of this youth group you are encouraged to participate in service activities throughout the year and expected to help with our Peach Fundraiser. These service projects are required to be able to participate in a Summer Servant Event or a National Youth Gathering. For more information please contact the Youth Ministry at youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org.



ACTIVITIES

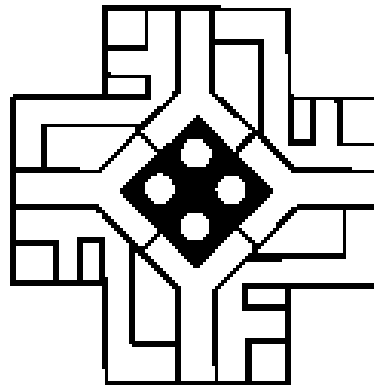
You are encouraged to participate in these fun fellowship and faith-growth events. All parents are encouraged to pick two events a year to help plan and participate in. This list is subject to change at our monthly Youth Committee Meetings. More on

Church calendar and in *Beacon* and *Reflections*.

ORKS

Every Sunday	Sunday Bible Study
Every Wednesday	Confirmation
1 st Sunday of Month	Youth Committee
November 14/15	Youth-Led Worship

- Game Night
- Fall Confirmation Retreat (7th/8th)
- Advent Meal
- Christmas Program
- Kings' Party
- Valentines Mission
- Spring Confirmation Retreat (6th/7th/8th)
- Vacation Bible School



LUTHERAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP HIGH SCHOOL (LYF)

This is a Ministry for 9th – 12th grade youth and their families. Our ministry tries to provide a safe environment in which to have fun while walking your faith journey with your Savior, Jesus Christ. In every activity we focus on creating a safe place to hang out and serve in Christian love. Every month of the school year there is an event that you can participate in besides attending weekly Sunday School and GAP.

As an active member of this youth group, you are encouraged to participate in service activities throughout the year and expected to help with our Peach Fundraiser. For more information please contact the Youth Coordinator at youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org.

ACTIVITIES

You are encouraged to participate in these fun fellowship and faith-growth events. All parents are encouraged to pick two events a year to help plan and participate in. This list is subject to change at our monthly Youth Committee Meetings. Look for more on Church calendar and in *Beacon* and *Reflections*.

LYF

Every Sunday	Sunday Bible Study
Every Wednesday	G.A.P.
1 st Sunday of Month	Youth Committee
November 14/15	Youth-Led Worship

- Grill Out
- Parent vs Youth Game
- College Care Packages
- Advent Meal
- Living Nativity
- Winter Retreat
- Super Bowl Party
- Lenten Meal
- Valentines Mission
- Lock-Out
- Easter Breakfast
- Graduation Brunch
- Vacation Bible School
- Summer Servant Event
- National Youth Gathering

LIVE NATIVITY

Sometimes known as “the church with the real animals at Christmas,” our high school

students have the opportunity to participate in a live nativity. This living story attracts many members of our community and is a lot of fun!

The live nativity will be hosted this year on Sunday, December 13, at 4:00 pm. For more information, contact youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org.

GAP

Enter the GAP on Wednesdays during Church Family Night! As we gather together, we will be entering **God’s Awesome Presence** in the LYF group, through topical Bible studies and group games. As we study God’s Word for our lives more in depth, we will discover and explore many of **God’s Amazing Promises**. Through our time together and the insight we gain from God’s Word, we will strive to become **God’s Active People**. We also will begin to uncover **God’s Almighty Purpose** for each of our lives. Make sure you bring your Bibles for reading and your hearts for service! If you have any questions about GAP please contact youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org.

This year in G.A.P. we will be covering some interesting topics!



2016 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Held every three years, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God’s Word, worship, service and fellowship with others from across the synod. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis.

This year’s theme is “In Christ Alone” and everyone will gather around the book of Philippians and three themes: Humility, Identity and Community. The National Youth Gathering will take place July 13-21 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

UKANDU

UKANDU is a mission opportunity for youth at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Participants can expect to serve alongside 250 other people from a variety of churches to bring the love of Jesus to the people of inner city Chicago. UKANDU works with the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation, Lutheran Church Charities and other ministries.

UKANDU is a Christian mission organization dedicated to helping youth and adults become the heart and hands of Christ to those in need around the world. The philosophy comes from Scripture and is reflected in its name. “I (You) CAN DO all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). And, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

UKANDU takes place June 19-25 in Chicago.

FUNDRAISING

As part of an active member of LYF, you and your family are expected to participate in our annual Colorado Peach Fundraiser. When you enter into the 5th grade you are assigned a Prize Account. All of your church earnings will go into this account. While you are at this church, you can use that money for any activity the church does that requires money. Any questions please contact youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org.



PROFIT DISTRIBUTION

Each youth will receive:

- money per case sold
- money per hour for youth who worked
- money per hour for parent who worked

The rest of the profit will be divided among all ORKS and LYF Events. This includes National Youth Gatherings and Servant Events.

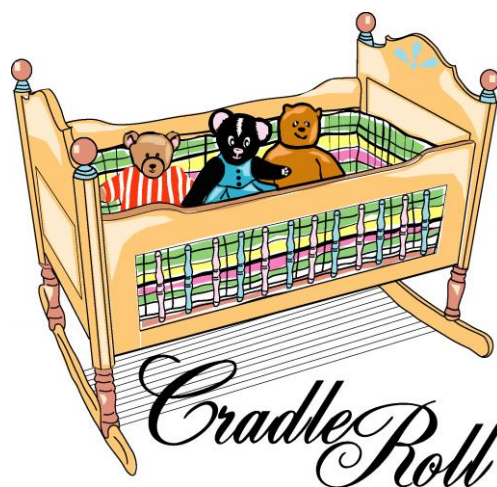
Children

Mission Statement

The mission of our Children's Ministry is to nurture and support families; equipping them for a lifetime of learning, praying and celebrating God's love in every aspect of life.

CRADLE ROLL

Children are given several gifts at baptism. Baptism is more than a ceremony, more than a tradition, more than a christening (like a ship). Baptism is being brought into God's family. In order to remember the promises of forgiveness and the washing away of sin at baptism, each baptized child is given a baptism medallion, their personalized baptism banner, an embroidered linen baptismal napkin, and the book *Our Faith from A to Z* by Ruth M. Meyer.





OUR REDEEMER PRESCHOOL

Our Redeemer Preschool has been fulfilling the educational and spiritual needs of children in the Iowa City area since 1981.

Our Redeemer Preschool desires to nurture our children with Christ as the center of their lives. We use the Voyages Christian curriculum to share the gift of the Gospel message of Christ Jesus. Our Redeemer Preschool uses The Creative Curriculum in order to apply a developmentally appropriate academic atmosphere. The fundamental beliefs of this curriculum are as follows:

1. Constructive, purposeful play is a vehicle for meaningful learning.
2. The development of social competence is a key focus of the preschool years.
3. Curriculum and assessment must be linked.
4. Families are partners in children's learning.
5. The teacher's role is vital in connecting content, teaching, and learning.
6. All children, including those with special needs, can thrive in an appropriate preschool classroom.

ADMISSION STATEMENT

Our Redeemer Christian Preschool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, or other school-administered programs.

AGES

The preschool serves the children of Our Redeemer and our community who are between the ages of 3 and 5, toilet-trained and not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

SESSIONS

Classes run from after Labor Day through Memorial Day for age 3-PreKindergarten year.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$190/Month

Tuesday/Thursday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$140/Month

5 Days

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$315/Month

** For Extended Care Options, contact the Director*

** Discounts available for Our Redeemer members and for families with multiple students enrolled.*

The preschool is fully licensed by the State of Iowa. Contact Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller, at 338-3949 or preschool@ourredeemer.org.

**Kids Club
TEACHER ORIENTATION**

Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:45 pm

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club is a church-sponsored weekly program for young people. For more information about our Kids Club, please contact Denise Schwarting at 358-9590 or Becky West at 430-3809.

LITTLE LAMBS is for children 3 years through Kindergarten. **CROSSTOWN** is for children in 1st and 2nd grade. **FAITH EXPLORERS** is for children in grades 3 through 5.



Every Wednesday evening during Kids Club programs, the children learn Bible stories and verses, sing songs, play games, and participate in craft and mission projects. Children earn awards for completing memory work. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church believes that these programs provide fun and enriching midweek Christian activities for children.

COST

Registration fee: \$10/year
Scholarships are available.

Kids Club T-shirt: \$10/shirt
Available if you are a first time registrant or if your child has outgrown his/her shirt.

Children are encouraged to wear their shirts weekly, and prizes are awarded.

Registration forms are available in the church office.

BIBLE / PENCIL

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will provide all students with a Bible if needed. Students in 3rd through 5th grades are expected to bring their Bible with them to class each week. Students who have not yet received a Bible should contact Kaja Mueller, Director of Christian Education at (319) 338-5626 or dce@ourredeemer.org. Students should also come prepared with a pencil each week.

Students receive a special treat each week for coming prepared: wearing their club t-shirt, and bringing their Bible. To receive these incentives, students must be on time for Opening at 6:45 pm.

Memory Work / Awards

Children earn awards for each four-week unit and its accompanying Bible verse. We cover six units during each semester. At the end of each unit, we have a special closing ceremony. The classes recite their Bible verses, and we sing our favorite songs. Parents are always welcome to attend.

SPECIAL AWARDS

There are several special awards that we have developed that any child is eligible to earn. We work on these throughout the year, and they are awarded on the last day of club. We do take these awards seriously and make sure that the children really know the material.

A special award may be earned by any club member who learns the following:

1. Slogan: *"Growing in our faith in Jesus every day."*
2. Hand Sign: demonstrate *"Jesus died for me and you."*

Calendar

CLASSES BEGIN: Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, promptly at 6:45 pm for the Opening. We have many important things to cover, and ask that students arrive early each week. Kids Club Sunday is February 21, 2016.

Awards night will be the last Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

SPRING CARNIVAL: A fun Carnival Night will be held in the spring on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

Mission Projects

Throughout the year we encourage the children to bring weekly offerings, which we use to support ministries that we think benefit children.

CANCELLATION

If at any time during the year the Iowa City schools are canceled on a Wednesday, our Kids Club program (*Little Lambs, Cross Town*) will also be canceled on that day. Stay tuned to Channel 9 KCRG for last minute weather-related cancellations.

Snacks

Our snacks are through donations. By

arranging with the snack coordinator, snacks might be brought for your child's birthday, thereby doing double duty.

Birthdays

Throughout the year we celebrate each student's birthday (or half birthday, if it falls outside of our calendar), in front of the whole club.

Classroom Locations

See church map of classroom locations on the map at the end of this Equipping Booklet.

FAITH EXPLORERS

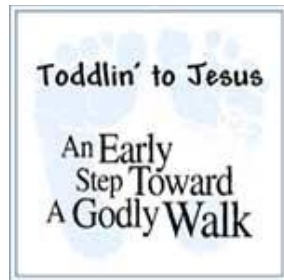


Faith Explorers are on a three-year study cycle that was created by Shana Stuart.

"Seeing God in Our Sanctuary" consists of studying the six seasons of the church year and recognizing all the symbolism. This includes symbolism throughout the sanctuary as well as in the hymns that we sing. There is a two-week focus on the symbols of Jesus.

"The Light of God in Our Sanctuary" consists of a detailed examination of the 12 stained glass windows, including the relationship they have with the Apostles Creed. Scripture verses are learned that emphasize Jesus as the "light of the world". There is an overview to understand the contributions of Martin Luther.

"The Twelve Apostles and The Great Commission" consists of an in-depth look at each of the twelve apostles that Jesus chose to spread the good news with a focus on the Great Commission that Jesus wants all of us to follow. There is a study on the Last Supper/communion with a focus on Leonardo's Last Supper painting.



TODDLIN' TO JESUS

It is never too early to strengthen our relationship with God and to share that special bond with our children. We realize how difficult it can be to participate in church services and activities at times with little ones in tow. Yet, it is extremely important not to hinder these children from the benefits the church family can provide. Thus we have developed a special time just for you and your little ones and "little ones to be."

Children aged birth to 35 months accompanied by their parents, as well as expecting parents, are invited to participate in Toddlin' to Jesus. You will be able to meet with other parents and children for Bible study, prayer, singing, and playing. For more information about Toddlin' to Jesus, please contact Crissy Pence (Communication Cabinet #207) through the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School TEACHER ORIENTATION

Fellowship Hall
August 30, 2015 after 10:30 am service

*For birth through two years of age, please see **Toddlin' to Jesus** section.*

On Sunday mornings, children ages three years through eighth grade attend classes to help them "Grow in Christ". The three year-olds through third grade will meet in the music room at 9:15 am and then be excused to go to their classrooms at 9:30 am. The fourth through eighth grades will meet first in their classrooms at 9:15 am. Our Sunday School classrooms are bursting with energy, excitement, and true Bible learning. Each week students hear the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection and are exposed to a substantial scope of Bible stories. Our lesson time also includes songs, drama, crafts, games, optional snacks, and mission projects. The fourth grade through eighth grade teachers will escort their children to the Chapel for music at 10:00 am. These children will be dismissed from their music time at 10:15 am. Sunday School is held year round, except on select holidays and other special church events. Look in **Reflections** for further announcements. For more information contact Kelli Kucera at 319-512-6789 or Kaja Mueller at dce@ourredeemer.org.

MEMORY WORK

In building a strong foundation of faith for our children, we believe it is important to begin teaching some of the core

components of the catechism at an early age. These will be taught in the classroom, and we encourage parents to work on them at home as well. At the end of the school year, children will have the opportunity to earn a special pin or ribbon to celebrate their memory of these important accomplishments.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEMORY WORK?

- We use memory work for our everyday experiences
- Certain facts must be memorized for quick recall and retrieval
- Memory can become part of our life and this memorized information can be internalized and become part of a student’s life patterns and belief system
- Can assist students to think more sharply and utilize and apply information

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE PASSAGES, HYMNS, BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- When this is accomplished we can look up/quote scriptural sections easier
- Selected scripture and hymns can be recited to give strength and encouragement in times of distress and pain
- Reminds the students of their beliefs and provides strength to live accordingly
- Has learning potential

What is Our Redeemer’s goal?

Memory selections that:

1. Are carefully chosen on the basis of their meaning and value for living and sharing the Christian faith.
2. Correlate with the student’s moral and spiritual development and adapted to meet differences in memorizing ability.
3. Are taught meaningfully and enjoyably.
4. Are meaningfully applied to the life of the student.

MEMORY ASSIGNMENTS	
Toddlin	The Lord’s Prayer
3 years	Psalm 119:105
4 years	Romans 6:23
Kindergarten	John 3:16
1st Grade	The Ten Commandments
2nd Grade	Hebrews 4:16
3rd Grade	Proverbs 28:13
4/5/6 th Grade	Apostle’s Creed
	Matthew 28:19-20
	Ephesians 2:8-10
7/8 th Grade	Books of the Bible
	2 Timothy 3:15-17
High School	Proverbs 3:5-6
	Psalm 23

On Sunday School Sunday the following classes will be reciting the following Memory Assignments to the congregation.

Birth through Kindergarten:

- *The Lord's Prayer*

First Grade through Third Grades:

- *The Ten Commandments*
- *Scripture that correlates with each lesson or unit.*

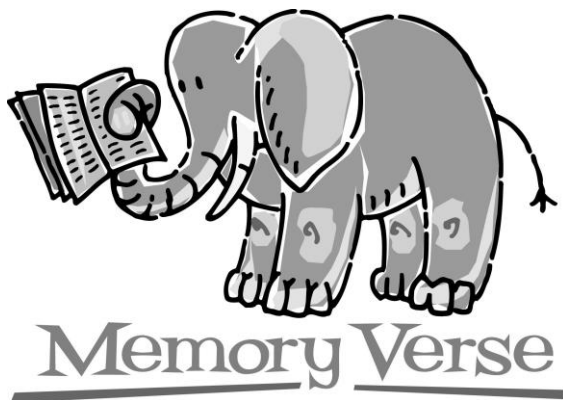
Fourth Grade through Sixth Grades:

- *Apostle's Creed*
- *Scripture that correlates with each lesson or unit.*
- *Portions of Luther's Small Catechism*

Seventh through Eighth Grades:

- The Books of the Bible, the Old and New Testaments

Note: It is recommended that teachers and parents also learn the Memory Assignments!



On Equipping

Recognizing the differences in memorizing ability, we find it extremely important to teach not only portions of scripture, but also how and where to find scripture when needed, equipping students for their lifetime of spiritual growth and learning.

Classroom Locations

See church map of classroom locations on the map at the end of this Equipping Booklet.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & LUNCH



Children age 4 through 8th grade are invited to participate in our annual Children's Christmas Program. This program held on Sunday, December 13th, 2015, at 11:45 am, offers the children an opportunity to actively share the Good News of our Savior's birth.

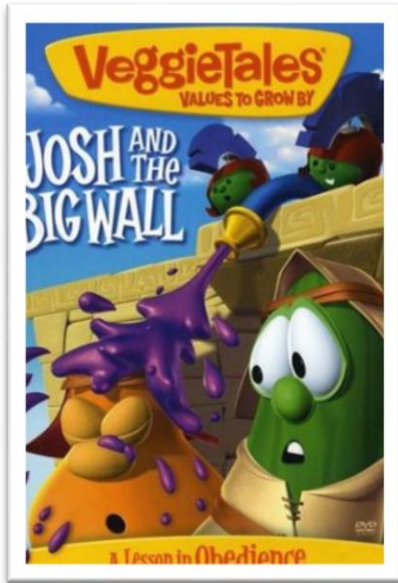
Children who are in the three year-old Sunday School class, Preschool A, will be taking some time of their class to practice a few songs they will sing before the program on the assigned day.

Children will begin learning songs for the program during Sunday School music time in October. There will be a couple of Saturday morning practices in early December as well.

The program is followed by a wonderful soup lunch in the Fellowship Hall by the Board of Education. For more information, contact Allison Haack at 688-9513.

CHILDREN'S DINNER THEATER

The Fennel Frontier Dinner Theatre
Sunday, November 8, at 5:30 pm
Sign up in the church office



The Fellowship Hall will be decorated, a child-friendly dinner will be provided, and all you have to do is wear your pajamas and sign up in the office so we know how much food to prepare!

A Lesson in Obedience

"A lesson in obedience, it's the Bible story of Joshua and the Walls of Jericho as told by our beloved Veggies. After 40 years of wandering in the desert, the children of Israel finally get to go to the Promised Land! Only one little thing they've overlooked ... the city of Jericho and its massive wall! Josh will have to decide whether it's better to do things his way or God's way!"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 13 – 17, 2015

Children age 3 years through 8th grade enjoy a fantastic week here at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in June each summer. The transformation from church home to VBS theme is amazing!

Each year families are excited to see if they will be walking into the midst of a jungle, beach, desert, mountains, or even outer space!

Our mornings begin with an opening, which is followed by great Bible lessons, fun crafts, games, snacks, and recreation.



Volunteers are always needed to help in various positions. For more information, contact Kaja Mueller, Director of Christian Education, in the office at 338-5626 or dce@ourredeemer.org.

Service Connections:

ASSIMILATION

To ensure that we are connecting our members to Jesus, His word and each other; reflecting His love in word and deed.

The purpose of this group is to improve the assimilation or integration of members into the activities of the church. This has been described as “the task of moving people from an awareness of your church to attendance at your church to active membership in your church.”

This team of people strives to accomplish its goals through various means that begin at the front doors of the church.

WELCOME CENTER

There is a Welcome Center located just inside the main entrance of the church in the narthex. In addition to the guest registry, there is information about Our Redeemer, including regular worship times.

NAME TAG TABLE

Someone said, “Words have meaning and names have power.” A Name Tag Table with name tags for every member is set up in the narthex. We ask that EVERY MEMBER wear his/her name tag, whether you are a new member or a charter member. This is one way we continue to get to know one another. And when someone says “Good Morning...” and uses your name, there is power.

OPEN ARMS

One way of welcoming people is to throw open your arms to embrace in a big hug. To simply have open arms is seen as a welcoming gesture.

Open Arms seeks to match members of Our Redeemer with similar interests for a six-month mentoring partnership. In most cases, one member is new to Our Redeemer. This pairing helps to make our new members feel welcome and informed as soon as they join our church family. With a minimal amount of time, you can offer Christian friendship and support to those new to our church.

Open Arms Goals:

1. to communicate with new members on a steady (bi-weekly is recommended) basis via phone calls, emails, notes, or invitations
2. to make new members feel a part of the Our Redeemer family
3. to seek out new members at church services and introduce them to other members
4. to provide new members with information about opportunities available at Our Redeemer
5. to look for opportunities to socialize with new members out of the church setting
6. to assist new members in becoming acquainted with life in the Iowa City area if they are new to the community
7. to follow up with new members about the hosting experience

This program seeks both members looking for someone to “show them the ropes” or introduce them to people here, and members looking to act as hosts.

MEMBER NEWS BULLETIN BOARD

Located in the upstairs hallway to the education classrooms, across from the restrooms, you will find an interesting bulletin board with great information. Sports news, various types of recognition, and other accolades are reported and shared there about our members, along with community news and opportunities. In the Narthex, you will find a board with photos of our newest members. Be sure to check these boards out!

NEW MEMBER BRUNCH

Twice each year, this committee hosts a brunch to welcome all new members to Our Redeemer. Any and all new members are invited! This includes members who have transferred their membership from another congregation and those who have completed Basics of the Faith class and Adult Confirmation.

Upcoming Brunch Dates

September 27, 2015

March 6, 2016

ASSIMILATION PARTICIPATION

The committee typically meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Susan Scott at 319-530-0537 or susankscott06@hotmail.com.

EDUCATION

This committee works closely with the Director of Christian Education overseeing all of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's educational ministries. These ministries include Sunday School, Midweek and Confirmation Classes, Vacation Bible

School, Adult Bible Classes, and Kids Club. For more information, contact the church office at 338-5626.

Our Redeemer is always looking for qualified and capable teachers. Teachers are needed for Adult, Youth, and Children classes. If you are interested in being a teacher, contact the church office at 338-5626.

HUMAN CARE

Human Care is the love of God reaching out through His people, the Church, ministering compassionately to the entire spectrum of the human being : spiritual, physical, emotional, social, and economic. Its focus is that whatever work is undertaken is based on the redemptive work of Jesus and endeavors to communicate Him to others as meaningfully as possible through the help extended.

It is God's love that stimulates and sustains us in the exercise of social ministry. Social ministry is a response, not something that we initiate or generate out of our own interests or resources. It originates outside of us. It occurs as we are confronted and affected by others. It's God's love for us put into actions.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Angels Are Coming! Members of Our Redeemer have the opportunity to participate in serving those less fortunate through the Angel Tree Prison Ministry Project sponsored by the Human Care Committee.

Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship where the children of prisoners are given Christmas gifts on behalf of the parent since he or she is unable to do so while incarcerated.

We request the names of approximately 40 children and each is represented by two angels on the tree—one for a clothing item and one for a toy or non-clothing item. The family will also be represented by an angel tag for one or two grocery certificates (depending on the size of the family). Each gift should cost no more than \$25. Each angel tag will identify the first name of the child, gender, age, sizes, gift wishes and when the gifts need to be delivered to the church.

Angels will be available for selection before, after, and between services during the Advent season.

When you select an angel(s), you will be asked to sign out the angel with your name and phone number. Angels occasionally get lost or misplaced during the busy holiday season, so having to register which angel you took will help to prevent someone not getting a gift. All gifts need to be wrapped and delivered to the church.

MITTEN TREE PROJECT

The Human Care Committee also sponsors the Mitten Tree project. This project provides gloves, mittens, scarves, and other items of warmth that are donated to the Iowa City Community School District for needy children. The schools give them to children who need these items to get them through the cold winter. Let's see how high we can stack donations under the tree!

PRIME TIME DINNER **Sunday, November 1, 2015**

Each year, the Human Care Committee hosts a Prime Time Dinner for Senior Citizens at Our Redeemer.

Everyone age 60 and older is invited to enjoy this Thanksgiving-type dinner. Following the dinner, special entertainment will be provided.

CONTACT

The committee meets on a monthly basis. For more information, contact Steve Rudin at 626-6369.

HEALTH MINISTRIES AND PARISH NURSE

This ministry is a Christian service shaped by Christ's concern for all aspects of the human condition, and directed to the service of the whole person. Health Ministries responds to the health needs of the congregation and promotes wellness of the body, mind, and spirit.

The Parish Nurse is an advocate for members who are facing health challenges. The role includes counselor, facilitator, wellness consultant, and referral source.

Members with health concerns who would like a visit should contact Anita Nicholson at #337-2164 or leave a message in the church office at 338-5626.



MISSION

The fulfilling of the Great Commission is an important segment of our church ministry. A percentage of our general budget is given for District and Synodical missions. Plus, the congregation supports special mission endeavors such as the Johnson County Crisis Center, our sister church in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, Lutheran Family Services, Lutheran Hour, and Orphan Grain Train to name a few.

The Mission Committee work includes support of those serving in the mission field. It also assists people in need such as those facing natural disasters (e.g., tornados, hurricanes, floods) and poverty or displacement due to social justice or armed conflict (e.g., Palestine and American Indian reservations). Each year, the committee plans a mission trip either in the United States or overseas. In 2014, a team did tornado recovery work in Arkansas. Our Redeemer Mission Committee planned a domestic trip for 2015 to a remote village in central Alaska and we are planning a trip to Swaziland, Africa, in 2016.

The Mission Committee organizes fundraisers including a mission auction. It

sponsors Pancake Day to raise funds for the Johnson County Crisis Center.

CONTACT

For more information about the Mission Committee, contact the church office at 338-5626.

MISSION AUCTION

November 22

On this Sunday, we will celebrate mission work.

Upcoming Mission Trips

We are looking at serving Swaziland in May/June of 2016.

Watch the *Beacon* and *Reflections* closely for more information.

OUTREACH

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to follow the Great Commission of our Savior, Jesus, "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19a). We are about equipping disciples for Jesus. A Christian disciple is one who trusts in Jesus as his/her Savior and follows Jesus to spread the Gospel of salvation to others so that they also become disciples of Jesus. As a committee, we are here to provide opportunities for the members of Our Redeemer to reach out to their family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others

with the message of forgiveness and salvation that only comes through Jesus Christ.

“And let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25

We also reach out to visitors to encourage their questions and to invite them to visit us again to learn more about God’s love in Jesus.

For more information, contact Steve Faga at #319-354-4035.

PROPERTIES

The Church Properties Committee is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church, church grounds, and parsonage. This is done through both contract and volunteer work. For more information, contact Mike Applegarth 321-1257.

Administrative Connections:



BEACON

Our monthly church newsletter *Beacon* is designed as a summary of events and activities, a quick look at upcoming events, informational articles, and an activity calendar for the Body of Christ here at Our Redeemer.

The name of the newsletter comes from Matthew 5:14 *You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.* Notice the skylight at the top of the sanctuary. From this place, we shine our Gospel light into the community. Not just the building, but we the people are the light in this community.

We encourage regular reading of this publication.

The *Beacon* is emailed once a month, available in paper form on the last Sunday of the month, replacing *Reflections*, and is also located online at www.ourredeemer.org.

Submissions are due to the church office no later than 5 pm on the 20th of each month. Contact our Office Coordinator, Laurel Sellers.

CARD SHOP

LWML hosts a Christian card shop and bookstore located just outside the Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church. This service is available to provide low-cost Christian messages of hope, concern, encouragement, and joy.

In addition to cards, there are Christian resources (Bibles, bookmarks, napkins, jewelry, and small gifts) available. These resources will be ordered.

Payment box is located on the wall to the left of the display. For more information, contact Kathy Folkmann at 354-0480.

COMMUNICATION CABINETS

To provide a way to stay in communication with one another, each member family of Our Redeemer is assigned a communication box located just outside the church office.

If you do not yet have a box assigned to your family or you have further questions, please contact our Office Coordinator Laurel Sellers at 338-5626.

COMMUNICATION RACKS

Previous and current issues of *Beacon*, *Reflections*, Sermon Notes, IDE Today, Lutheran Digest, and other important communications can be found on communication racks outside the church office and in the church library.

DEVOTIONS

Many resources are available to help with personal and group devotions. Copies of *Portals of Prayer*, *My Devotions*, and *Happy Times* can be found in the narthex.

Devotional materials can also be found in the church library.

If you need assistance finding the right materials for you, contact the church office at 338-5626.

LIBRARY

The church library, a free service organized by members of LWML, provides quality Christian books, movies, cassette tapes and CDs to assist members of all ages in their faith journey. A card system is utilized for check-in/check-out.

Please stop by the desk in the library when checking in or out materials. If you have questions, please contact Rita Johnson at 358-8972.

REFLECTIONS

Our weekly church newsletter *Reflections* helps us reflect on how God is working within the Body of Christ here at Our Redeemer.

We encourage regular reading of the up-to-date information in this publication.

Reflections can be found at the ushers table at weekend worship, or located online at www.ourredeemer.org.

Submissions are due to the church office no later than 5:00 pm each Wednesday. Contact our Office Coordinator Laurel Sellers at 338-5626.

Worship Connections:



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD (Stewardship Sermon Series)

As stewards of Christ, we give thanks for all of our blessings. We give thanks to God for food, employment and possessions. One way of giving thanks is serving Him with our time, talents and treasure. The hymns of the church are full of stewardship themes that we sing in all church seasons. Some examples of such hymns are "We Give Thee But Thine Own" and "Take My Life and Let it Be."

This year, we will join in song in giving thanks to the Lord. May God bless you in your singing, your praying and your living out your faithful stewardship of all that God has given you.

September 20, 2015

David's Song of Thanks (1 Chron. 16)

October 18, 2015

O Come Let Us Sing (Psalm 95)

November 22, 2015

**The Lord God is my Strength
and my Song (Isaiah 12)**



HARK THE GLAD SOUND (Advent Sermon Series)

Advent is the season of "arrivals." Each year, Christians celebrate the incarnation of the Word made flesh with the birth of Jesus Christ. At the same time, Christians await the second coming of Jesus Christ. Thus, Advent is not just an anniversary of the birth of Jesus more than 2,000 years ago. Christians are always looking for Christ's return: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. This year, we will join the celebration of Jesus' incarnation and His return using songs of praise found in the Gospel of Luke. The first two chapters of Luke burst with praises at the initial coming of Jesus. In the joyful anticipation of Jesus' return, we will look back at His first arrival in the flesh with praises that have turned into song in Christian liturgy.

December 2, 2015 Week 1

"Mary's Song: The Magnificat"

December 9, 2015 Week 2

"Zechariah's Song: The Benedictus"

December 16, 2015 Week 3

"Simeon's Song: The Nunc Dimittis"

December 24, 2015 Week 4

"The Angels' Song: Gloria in Excelsis"



ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR (Lenten Sermon Series)

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. Lent originated in the early days of the Christian Church as a time of preparation for Easter, the day of Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

Because Sunday is the day of Resurrection, we skip over Sundays when we calculate the length of Lent. Therefore, in the Western Church, Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter.

During the season of Lent, the music of the church turns somber, but as Christians we know of God's promise of salvation to all who believe in Jesus Christ. With this promise, Christians rejoice in song knowing what Christ has done for us.

- February 10, 2016 Ash Wednesday
Savior, When in Dust to Thee
- February 17, 2016 Week 2
O Christ, You Walked the Road
- February 24, 2016 Week 3
Jesus, Refuge of the Weary
- March 2, 2016 Week 4
Christ, the Life of All the Living
- March 9, 2016 Week 5
Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
- March 16, 2016 Week 6
All Glory, Laud, and Honor
- March 24, 2016 Maundy Thursday
My Song is Love Unknown
- March 25, 2016 Good Friday
Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted
- March 27, 2016 Easter
Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

ADVENT AND LENTEN SUPPERS

All are invited to come!

During the Advent and Lent seasons, various groups and individuals prepare dinner for the congregation prior to these special worship services.

Advent dinners are on the three Wednesdays prior to Christmas, and Lenten dinners are on the five Wednesdays prior to Easter.

Dinner is served at 5:10 pm with the special worship service at 6:10 pm. There

is no cost, only a free-will donation to cover expenses.

Advent Dinner

Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Lenten Dinners

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

LENTEN PRAYER WALK

Lent is a time of reflection. Join us for a time of focused prayer. In small groups or individually, journey from prayer station to prayer station focusing on the life and death of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This prayer walk is specifically placed in the middle of Passion Week.

ACOLYTES

It is expected that all confirmation students (grades 6-8) serve as acolytes.

The word "acolyte" means "follower" or "attendant". It refers to the fact that the acolyte is assisting the pastor in the worship service in very specific ways.

Here at Our Redeemer, the duties include candle lighting, receiving the offering plates, and caring for the return trays for the communion cups.

ADULT CHOIR

Anyone of high school age and older who enjoys singing is encouraged to join!

Rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, starting September 16, 2015, through May. The choir sings regularly for worship services.

Contact the church office at 338-5626.

BAPTISM

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20



We believe the Bible teaches that a person is saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is

one of the miraculous means of grace through which God creates and/or strengthens the gift of faith. This Sacrament, explicitly commanded by God with His precious promises attached to it, is a powerful means of grace by which God grants faith and the forgiveness of sins. Anyone wishing to be baptized should contact Pastor Hartwig.

Expectant parents are encouraged to contact Pastor Hartwig with their expected due date so that a baptismal date may be scheduled.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SUPPORT

We encourage families to bring their children to worship and are pleased to offer resources for worship time.

Children's worship bags are available for children and are located on the "trees" in the narthex.

Children's worship bulletins are available from the ushers.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

As we come to our church home to nurture and support one another, a special fellowship time is available after 8:00 am worship prior to Bible study.

Our fellowship area is located in the narthex, where coffee and treats are hosted each week by different groups.

If you or your group would like to host, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area.

GREETERS

The greeter program is designed to help members and visitors feel warmly welcomed as they come to worship at Our Redeemer. Contact the church office if you would like to be a greeter.

HANDBELL CHOIR

If you are high school age or older, and can read music, the Handbell Choir is looking for you! We play during Sunday worship services approximately once per month, September through May. Two rehearsals are usually held prior to these services, so this is not a weekly commitment. Please contact the church office at 338-5626.

NURSERY

We are pleased to have children at worship and encourage families to bring them. If nursery services are needed, the nursery is located just past the church library and restrooms on the upper level. For more information, please contact the church office at 338-5626.

ORGAN AND PIANO

Our Redeemer is blessed to have Marilyn Paetz as a staff organist. Likewise, we have three talented pianists who rotate serving for the Gracious Beginnings Divine Service on Saturdays. Thank you all for using your talents and skills in glory to God.

If you have the talent and skill of playing either the organ or piano, please let Pastor Hartwig know. With vacations, illnesses, and life-challenges, there could be a time we need a spare. Or we could benefit from you giving an Offertory during services.

PRAISE TEAM

The Praise Team leads worship with contemporary music during the 10:30 am service on Sunday morning. The group introduces new music and traditional favorites to the worship service. Rehearsals are held year-round on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm during the school year, 6:00 pm in the summer. Contact the church office at 338-5626.

PRAYER CHAIN

Jesus instructed us to pray and assures us in Matthew 18:19 *“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”*

This prayer chain consists of members from Our Redeemer who have seen the power of prayer in the life of God’s people.

If you would like to become a member of the prayer chain contact the church office at 338-5626 or Skip Kempnich at 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemr.org.

If you would like the group to offer prayers on your behalf, for a loved one or for any special needs you may have, contact the church office at 338-5626 or Skip Kempnich at 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemr.org.

When requesting prayer, be sure to indicate if you would or would not want the prayer to be included in the public worship services.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Music is God’s greatest gift. It has often so stimulated and stirred me that I felt the desire to preach,” said Luther. And also, “Music is an outstanding gift of God.” We invite you to use your musical talents during our Divine Worship Services. This invitation includes our youth.

Please contact Twyla Freeman to let her know what you would like to do musically during our worship services. You can contact Twyla Freeman at 530-2371 or email her at specialmusic@ourredeemer.org.



TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANTS

We are fortunate to have some of the latest technology devices to enhance our worship experience.

Our sound system helps us hear the Word, message, and music more clearly during the service and also allows us to record one service each week for uploading to our web site so the service can be accessed via computer at a later date.

Our projection system permits a hands-free worship environment and also aids a visitor not familiar with our liturgies to more easily follow along.

Our cameras allow special events to be put up on the screens for better viewing. They also allow a service to be aired on the local access channel on Mediacom each week.

A volunteer is needed at each service to put the correct slide on the screens at the right time. The services are set up on the computer prior to the service by the Director of Technology. Advancing the slides for the screens is not complicated. There are only a few buttons to learn. A second volunteer is needed at the sound board during services.

A third volunteer is needed to operate the cameras for the service being recorded and for other special services.

Please consider helping in this area!

Training is available at any time on any of the equipment.

Contact the Director of Technology at 338-5626 or at technology@ourredeemer.org

USHERS

Ushers are an important part of our Sunday services. They distribute worship bulletins and other worship aids prior to the services. Ushers also assist in gathering the offering and distributing communion. Five ushers participate in each service. Ushers volunteer to serve regularly at one service per month. Contact Dave Freundt (338-5546).

YOUTH CHOIR

Allison Haack will be leading a youth choir for youth in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Look for more information this fall. For more information, contact Allison Haack at 688-9513.



An up-to-date 2015-2016 Calendar

Available at www.ourredeemer.org

Printed copies of the monthly calendar are available when the *Beacon* comes out—they will be at the ushers tables that weekend or in the office for the month following.

The Google Calendar can be linked to your Google calendar – contact Kevin Sellers

technology@ourredeemer.org

or (319) 631-8924 to learn more.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, LCMS, 2301 East Court Street, Iowa City, Iowa



Directory



UPPER LEVEL	Chapel & Sanctuary	Clergy & Staff Offices	Library & Lounge	Children's Nursery	Music & Choir Rm
COMMON	Educ Office & Classrooms	Public Circulation			
LOWER LEVEL	Fellowship Hall	Kitchen & Food Service	Preschool	Youth Room	Utility & Storage

Sunday Morning Openings

Age/Grade	Room Number
3 yr. olds through 3rd grade	206-Music Room

Sunday Morning Classrooms:

Age/Grade	Room Number
0-3 years	215-Toddlin' Classroom
3 years old	219-Classroom
4 years old	210-Classroom
Kindergarten	217-Classroom
1 st Grade	123-Classroom
2 nd Grade	121-Classroom
3 rd Grade	119-Classroom
4 th , 5 th and 6 th Grade	208-Classroom
7 th and 8th Grade	203E-Board Room
High School	110-Classroom
Adult	101-Fellowship Hall

Sunday Morning Closings

Age/Grade	Room Number
4th through 8th grade	202-Chapel of the Shepherd

Wednesday Night Openings

Age/Grade	Room Number
2 years through 2 nd Grade - Little Lambs & CrossTown	215-Classroom
3 rd through 5th grade - Faith Explorers	201-Sanctuary

Wednesday Night Classrooms:

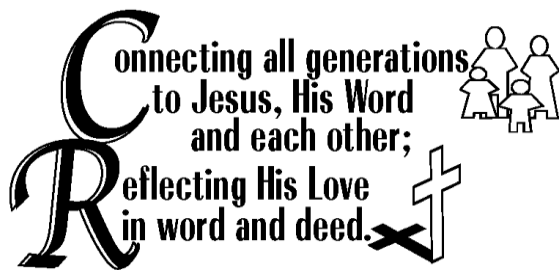
Age/Grade	Room Number
0-3 years	211-213 Nursery
2 years – Kindergarten – Little Lambs	215-Classroom
4 th – 5 th Grade- Faith Explorers	217-Classroom
1 st – 2 nd Grade - CrossTown	219-Classroom
3 rd Grade- Faith Explorers	210-Classroom
6 th Grade Small Group, Girls	121-Classroom
6 th Grade Small Group, Boys 8 th Grade Small Group	119-Classroom
7 th Grade Small Group, Boys	121-Classroom
7 th Grade Lecture 7 th Grade Small Group, Girls	123-Classroom
6 th Grade Lecture 8 th Grade Lecture	112-Classroom
High School	110-Classroom
Adult	208-Classroom



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Our Mission:

"This is what we do"



Our Vision:

"This is where the Spirit is taking us"

Our Redeemer Congregation is a grace-filled, God-glorifying community of believers devoted to Word, fellowship, Sacraments and prayer, committed to involving more people in ministry so that the Body of Christ would be built up for service to others as we reach out to more people with the Gospel.

Our Motto:

"This is what we are about"

**Equipping Disciples
to make Disciples
for Jesus**

THESE ARE THE VALUES THAT MATTER TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR REDEEMER:

CHRIST-CENTERED, Bible-based

We are a Christ-centered and Bible-based church which desires that all generations be intimately connected to Jesus and His Word. (John 14:6)

Caring Small Groups

We believe spiritual growth and caring communities are most effective in small groups which include Word, Prayer, Fellowship and Service. (Acts 2:42, 46-47)

Everlasting Life through GRACE

We believe that it is by God's grace that we are saved eternally and that it is by God's grace that we are equipped to serve here and now. (2 Cor. 5:14-21)

Neighbor to Neighbor: Gifted to Serve

We believe in helping people discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts and providing opportunities for people to use their resources, gifts and skills in service to others to the Lord's glory. (1 Cor. 12)

Together WE Worship

We believe in offering vibrant, genuine worship in Word and Sacrament with a variety of styles to the glory of God and the edification of His people. (John 4:24)

Encouraging in Loving Relationships

We believe that caring and loving relationships should permeate every aspect of family, church and community life. (Eph. 4:11-16)

Reflecting Jesus' Love

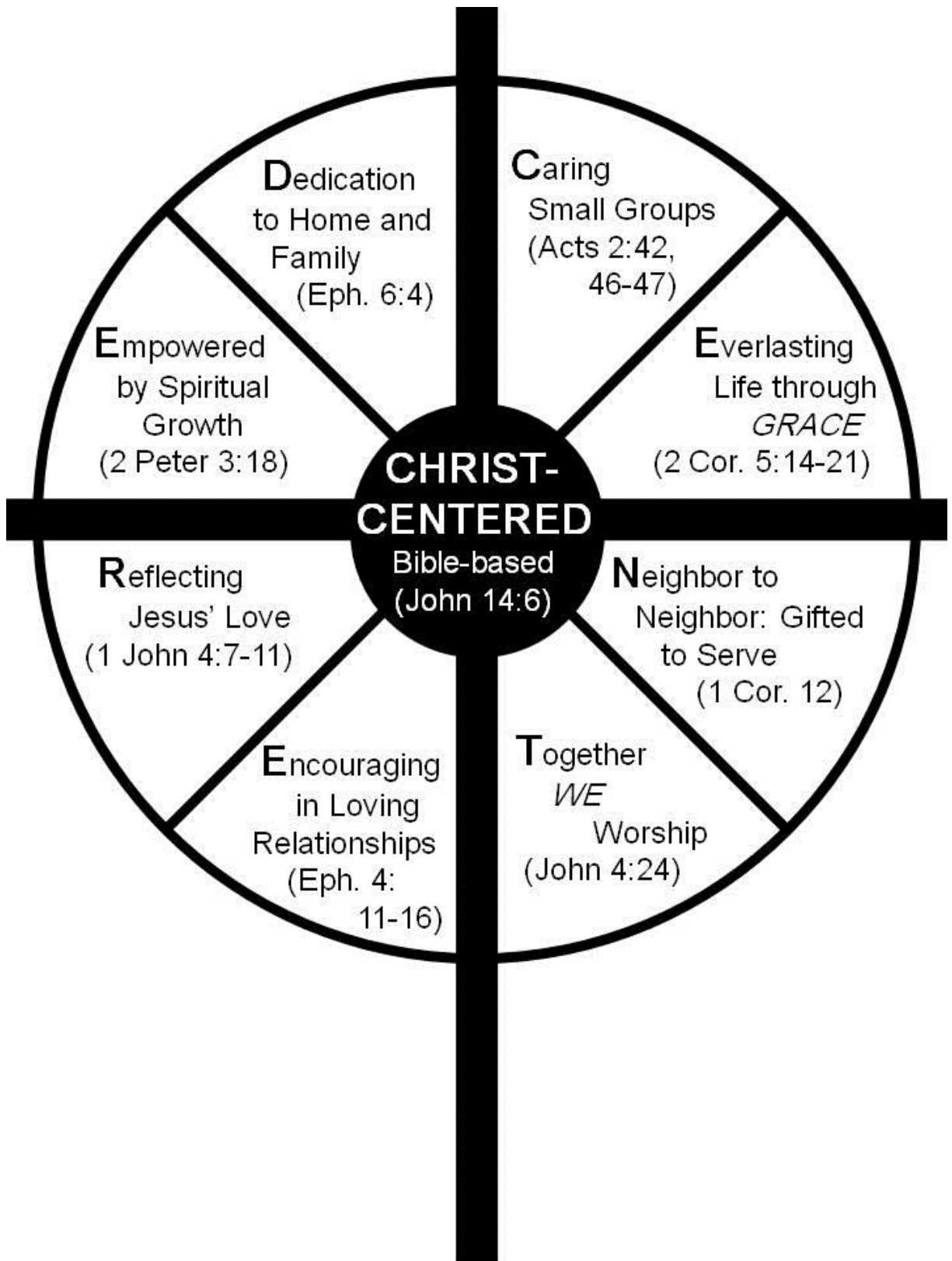
We believe that all of us—individually and corporately—are to reflect Jesus' unconditional love in word and deed, living the Christian life as followers (disciples) of Christ. (1 John 4:7-11)

Empowered by Spiritual Growth

We believe in the continued spiritual growth of our own members and those in our community through the offering of various Christian Education opportunities for all ages. (2 Pet. 3:18)

Dedication to Home and Family

We believe that the home/family is the essential agency for Christian education in our society and that the church is God's plan to provide support for the family. (Eph. 6:4)



Worship Services

Gracious Beginnings

Saturday 5:30 pm

*From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised (Psalm 113:3). As evening commences, our weekend worship schedule is inaugurated with **gracious beginnings**.*

*As we casually gather together in this place, we encounter, experience, and express our joy in response to what God has done for us. We worship by hearing God's Word, remembering baptism, and sharing bread and wine in Jesus' name while lifting our voices high in prayer and song. The melodic tones of the **piano**, and sometimes more instruments, with its dynamic range direct our voices in worship.*

God is Our Foundation

Sunday 8:00 am

*We hear that "no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ," the chief cornerstone (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20), and our worship of God is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets as components of the Divine Service liturgy connecting us with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. Word and Sacrament is **our foundation!***

*In this Divine Service, in which the worshiper comes face to face with God and talks to him as a child to a father, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving from our mind, heart, and voice. Our Casavant tracker **organ** is ideally suited to accompany our voices during this service.*

God is Our Hope

Sunday 10:30 am

Psalm 150 encourages us to "Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."

*In this Divine Service, a variety of music swells to fill the liturgy. We sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord through Christian music, hymns, and spiritual songs, (Eph. 5: 19). Receiving the key note from God, we sing in unison with one voice through Jesus Christ to the Father. As varied as our voices, a **myriad of instruments**, organ, bass, guitar, synthesizer, and drums, come together in this Divine Service to harmoniously sing praises to the Lord. All praise, glory, and honor to God because He is **our hope!***

Advent and Lenten Worship

(Wednesdays) 1:00 and 6:10 pm

Prior to the birth of the Bethlehem babe on Christmas Day and before the death and resurrection of Our Redeemer on Good Friday and Easter, we gather together to meditate upon the importance of the Advent and Lenten Seasons.

Holy Communion

***Holy Communion** is celebrated on the **first, third, and fifth Sundays and the corresponding Saturdays** of each month.*