

*More*

THAN

YOU

CAN

*imagine*  
Ephesians 3:20

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES 2016-2017

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**Church office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm**

## ELDERS

Bill Benson {Visitations}  
Vaughn Davisson  
Jim Eick  
Myrl Holida  
Skip Kempnich  
Val Penney  
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 ‘Immeasurably More’?

This year’s theme is “Immeasurably More,” which comes from Ephesians 3:20-21: <sup>20</sup> *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,* <sup>21</sup> *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.* (New International Version, NIV)

As Christians, we are able to do ‘immeasurably more’ through what Jesus Christ has done for each and every one of us. Through His life, death and resurrection, we can do ‘immeasurably more.’

Throughout this year, the congregation will use this theme in various ways.

Beginning on October 16 will have a six-week stewardship sermon series and a four-week Bible study about the very topic of ‘immeasurably more.’ As people who have ‘immeasurably more’ because of Jesus Christ, we all live as children of a generous God.

This year, the congregation will learn about what it is like living as children of a generous God.

As Christians, we understand that God is the Creator and owner of all things. We own nothing, but are fully dependent on the goodness and mercy of God. That emphasis portrays the role of the Christian as that of a steward, which in the New Testament is usually a slave or servant who is given authority over his master’s goods and entrusted with their management. It is the duty of the steward to be faithful.

Through the sermon series and Bible studies, we will see God not primarily as the owner, but as the giver. We cannot understand stewardship unless one first understands God’s generosity.

As stewards who “live under Him in His kingdom” and are empowered by the redemptive work of Christ to “serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness,” we are not merely managers of things, but joyful participants in God’s mission.





# Stephen Ministry

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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 imbalance, 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
Marcia Hulse	351-7059
Kathy Schweer	466-3084
Kevin Sellers	339-9804



## **CHRISTMAS & COOKIES**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016**

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 (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) families will be assigned a night to set up / clean up.

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**Wednesday, November 2, 2016**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017**



## PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, March 4, 2017

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 **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**, at **5:30 pm** 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 23, 2016 & February 5, 2017  
*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 eight 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**

### **TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

**Sunday, October 30, 2016**

**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. We will be opening our Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner from 5:00 pm.



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 something to share.

*Join us for this fun event and invite friends!*

## **IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY**

### **5 REASONS WHY WE SHOULD STUDY GOD'S WORD**

The Bible is an incredible book of history and facts that proves that there is a God that created all things. Most important of all, the Bible is the Word of God. It contains the mind of God and His will for each one of our lives. That is why the Bible was given to us. Paul the Apostle says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" Why should we study the Word of God? The following are a few scriptural reasons that we should consider when answering this question.

**First, the Word of God is infallible.** There is no error in God's Word. The law of the Lord is perfect concerning our soul. The testimony of the Lord is not only infallible it is inerrant. Proverbs 30:5-6, "*Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*" The purity of His words does not need anything added to it. God warns us not to misrepresent His Scripture.

**Second, the Word of God is complete.** The Bible does not need any new chapters or verses. It is all given to us already. Many cults add their own books or commentaries to the Bible. All you need is God's Word because it is the holy Word of God. It is complete. In Revelation 22:18-19,

God gives us a warning, "*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*"

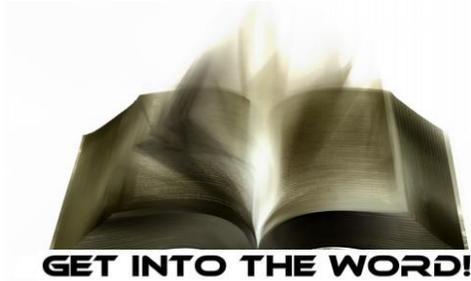
**Third, the Word of God is totally authoritative.** The book of Psalms 119:89 says "*Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.*" The Word of God is the only source for absolute divine authority. This divine authority is for you and me as servants of Jesus Christ. When some say, "I have a word from the Lord for you," write it down and as you study God's word see if the Lord speaks to you through His Scriptures. Only then will you know if the Lord is truly speaking to you.

**Fourth, God's Word is totally sufficient for all of our needs.** We don't need anything else. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 it reads "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" We Christians can be totally secure in the Lord by studying the Bible because it is God's plan for our life.

**And fifth, the Word of God will accomplish what it promises.** If God told you something will happen, and you wait, it will happen. In Isaiah 55:11 it says, "*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*" God sent His word to accomplish His

perfect will in our lives. If God makes a promise to you He will fulfill it in His own time. There are so many promises given to us in the Bible. These promises reassure us and bring comfort to our lives in our times of trial. I challenge you to take time to study the Word of God. The Lord will show you wonderful things that will change your life.

*Raul Ries is the Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Golden Springs and President of Somebody Loves You Ministries.*



## **BIBLE STUDIES**

### **1 PETER**

April 23-May 14, May 28  
Sunday mornings (5 sessions)  
9:30 AM – 10:15 am

In his first Letter (Epistle), Peter encourages elders in Asia Minor to watch over their congregations with patient care and nurture them in the new life God gives. These new Gentile congregations were enduring significant suffering due to persecution and alienation from the corrupt culture in which they lived. Peter describes them as God's people: chosen, holy, supremely precious to the chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus.



### **A MAN NAMED MARTIN: Part 1 DVD**

September 14-October 12  
Wednesday nights (5 sessions)  
7:00 PM – 8:00 pm

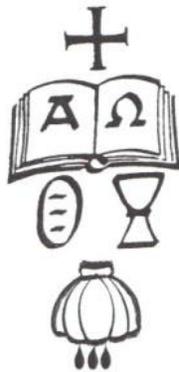
In *A Man Named Martin - Part 1: The Man* viewers encounter a 15th-century religious reformer from Germany who broke ranks with the Catholic Church. This Bible study is devoted to Martin Luther -- a monk whose Spirit-inspired grasp of God's justification of sinners through faith in the Savior was the cornerstone of the Protestant Reformation.

## **A NEW THING**

April 26  
Wednesday night (1 session)  
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Old is familiar. Old can also be comfortable. Whether you welcome new things or shrink away, change is something everyone encounters at one time or another. *A New Thing* is a one-session Bible study that will open your eyes to the newness God promises for your life both now and into eternity (Isaiah 43).

- Discover the uplifting blessing of seeing yourself as God does—a valuable treasure.
- Spend time reflecting on God's faithfulness in your past, and trust that He'll strengthen you for each moment of the present.
- Learn to live life by looking forward!



## **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**

**November 4-5, 2016**

**Weekend Immersion**

**Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm**

### **Winter**

**February 3-4, 2017**

**Weekend Immersion**

**Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm**

### **Spring**

**May 5-6, 2017**

**Weekend Immersion**

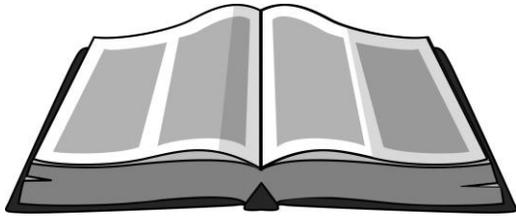
**Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm**

## **BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE**

October 19-November 9  
Wednesday Nights (4 sessions)  
7:00 pm - 8:00 am

Although Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) is well-known, His Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6) packs a powerful message too. Although not as well-known, this sermon of Jesus is just as challenging to Jesus' followers and every bit as comforting. Unique to our Lord's sermon in Luke, His four beatitudes ("blessings") are paired with four jolting condemnations ("woes"). Used as a tool to dig into Scripture itself, *Blessings in Disguise* can help today's Christians find Christ's power and encouragement. The four sessions of this Insight course follow the following built-in outline:

Session 1:  
 Blessed the Poor/Woe to the Rich  
 Session 2:  
 Blessed the Hungry/Woe to the Well Fed  
 Session 3:  
 Blessed the Weeping/Woe to the  
 Laughing  
 Session 4:  
 Blessed the Despised/Woe to the Popular



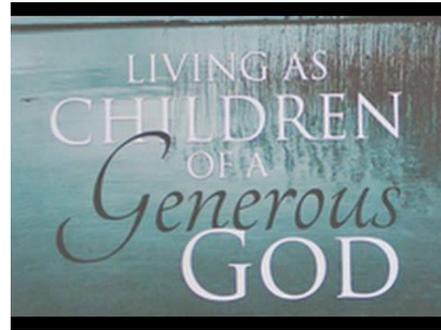
**GENERAL EPISTLES**

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.



**IMMEASURABLY MORE: LIVING AS CHILDREN OF A GENEROUS GOD**

October 16-November 6  
 Sunday Mornings (4 sessions)  
 9:30 am-10:15 am

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.

Through this study, we learn about a generous God more than about generous people; living as children of God, not merely as stewards; and about living, not just giving.





### **ISRAEL: THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY**

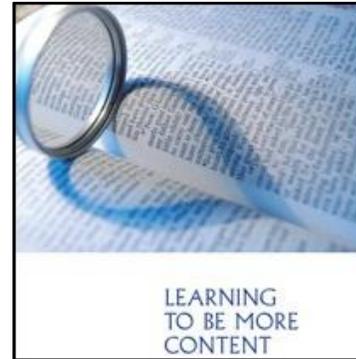
September 18, October 2-9, November 13-  
December 18  
Sunday Mornings (9 sessions)  
9:30 am-10:15 am

The Holy Land has a long and varied history. The Patriarchs, the Judges, the Kings, the divided nation, the Assyrian exile, the Babylonian exile, and the homecoming of Judah under Cyrus the Persian, which is the majority of the Old Testament, happened between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. This same land is the background for Jesus' ministry.

For two weeks in August, Pastor Hartwig traveled to Israel as a part of his doctorate classwork.

Throughout the autumn and winter months, he will share with the congregation what he learned and intertwine that with God's Word.

This Bible study will feature what he saw throughout each day in the Holy Land. Some discussion topics could include: Bethlehem, Jericho, Qumran, Dead Sea, Negev, Galilee, Golan, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Caesarea Philippi, Nimrod's Castle, Mount of Olives, Sanhedrin tombs, Jaffa Gate, Hezekiah's Wall, Dead Sea Scrolls, Western Wall, Bethesda and the Chapel of the Holy Sepulcher.



### **LEARNING TO BE MORE CONTENT**

March 5-April 9  
Sunday Mornings (6 sessions)  
9:30 am-10:15 am

Are you a contented person? Are you satisfied with your life? Be honest now. We live in what may be the most prosperous and comfortable country in the world – more possessions, freedoms, and opportunities than perhaps anywhere. Yet, we're among the most discontented people in the world. Where did it all begin?

Lucifer, the brightest star in heaven, was not content. He wanted to sit on the Throne. A third of the angels joined in the rebellion. They were all removed from heaven. They still are not content. Eve, without sin in the Garden, was not content. She wanted to be like God. And ever since, the human race has not been content. Discontent robs you of the joy and peace that you want, and it does so on a daily basis.

But there is hope. Philippians 4:11b, *"I have learned (as a lesson and with some difficulty) to be content (to be satisfied or full) whatever the circumstances."* The Apostle Paul confesses that he had to learn contentment and so do we.

**March 5, 2017**

Concerning My Existence

**March 12, 2017**

Concerning My Spirituality

**March 19, 2017**

Concerning My Daily Living

**March 26, 2017**

Concerning My Trials

**April 2, 2017**

Concerning My Aging

**April 9, 2017**

Concerning My Life in Heaven



**THROUGH THE DIVINE SERVICE:**  
**F.I.T. 4 WORSHIP**

January 8 - February 26  
Sunday Mornings (8 sessions)  
9:30 am - 10:15 am

The Athanasian Creed teaches us that true Christian worship can be recognized in two ways. First, we worship the triune God, that is, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The second way we recognize Christian worship is that it is centered on Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Our worship is “divine” because it is Christ-centered.

The structure of the Divine Service is the story of God’s work of salvation – the essence of the Bible itself. In the Divine Service, God invites us to take part in that story, to be immersed in it and find our place at the table. As we take part regularly, this story becomes our story.

**January 8, 2017**

Invocation & Baptism

**January 15, 2017**

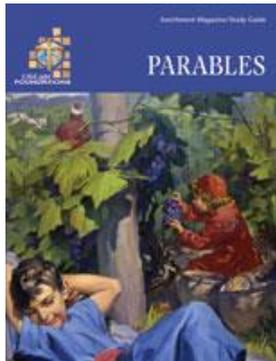
Confession & Absolution

**January 22, 2017**

Kyrie & Hymn of Praise

**January 29, 2017**

The Readings & Sermon



**LIFELIGHT SERIES: PARABLES**

January 25-April 19  
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

**February 5, 2017**

The Creeds

**February 12, 2017**

Holy Communion Part One:

Preface to Lord's Prayer

**February 19, 2017**

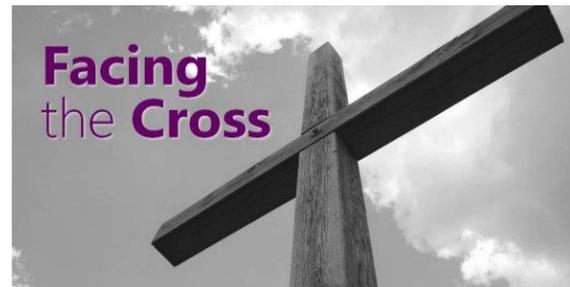
Holy Communion Part Two:

Pax Domini to Nunc Dimittis

**February 26, 2017**

Benedicamus and Benediction

## CHURCH-WIDE CAMPAIGN



### FACING THE CROSS

**Church-wide Small Group Bible Study  
during the Lenten season.**

In this Lenten Bible study, we set our faces on the cross of Christ that lies before us. As we face the cross during these Lenten days, we also face certain aspects in our lives which are not always in line with the cross. We come to terms with them in this series through the cross of Christ—who came to save us that we might see him face-to-face in heaven.

Each session in this Bible study includes Bible readings, prayers, questions, an ice breaker, and discussion starters related to things we are facing as Christians in this world today. Topics include facing our sins, temptation, our fears, our worldliness, one another and suffering.



### GOD IS LIGHT: THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY CLASS

November 16 - January 18  
Wednesday Nights (7 sessions)  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for an in-depth study on the stained glass windows in the narthex and sanctuary of our church. This seven session study will provide unique details about each window and teach us the corresponding Scripture for each window.

# *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.

***No Sunday School and Bible Class on  
September 4, 2016 (Labor Day)  
December 25, 2016 (Christmas Day)  
January 1, 2017 (New Year's Day)  
April 16, 2017 (Easter Sunday)  
May 21, 2017 (Graduation Breakfast)  
June 4, 2017 (Christ Cares Sunday)***

**September 18, October 2-9, November 13-December 18**

Israel: The Land of Milk and Honey

**October 16-November 6**

Immeasurably More:  
Living as Children of a Generous God

**January 8-February 26**

Through the Divine Service:  
F.I.T. 4 Worship

**March 5-April 9**

Learning to be More Content

**April 23-May 14, 28**

1 Peter

## **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 14-October 12**

A Man Named Martin –  
Part 1: The Man  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**October 19-November 9**

Blessings in Disguise  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**November 16, 30; December 7, 14, 21;  
January 11, 18**

Windows Class  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

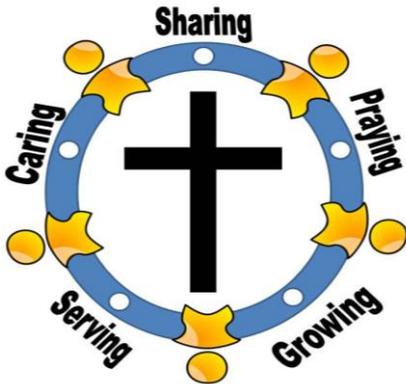
**January 25; February 1, 8, 22; March 8,  
15, 22, 29; April 19**

A Study of the Incarnation  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**April 26**

A New Thing  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

## 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 are 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](mailto:smallgroups@ourredeemer.org).

## 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.

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.

*... 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 at Lunch Bunch, 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.

This year's study will focus upon the Christian faith using the book titled The Christian Faith by Robert Kolb. In this book, the author presents the basic teachings of the Christian faith from the Lutheran framework. This framework presents all the articles of faith in accordance with the Scriptures and also correctly distinguishes between Law and Gospel.

## 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).

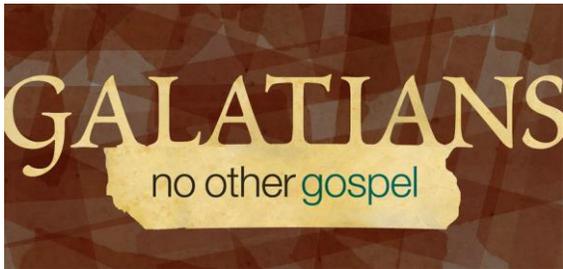
Date	Topic (7:00 – 9:00 pm)
September 22	Faith and our God
October 26	Sin, Evil, and God
November 28	Person & Work of Christ
December 19	Justification & Conversion
January 26	Holy Scripture, God' Word
February 21	Sacraments
March 23	New Obedience, New Beginning
April 27	Church & Ministry
May 25	Make Up Session

## 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.”



## BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

### Galatians

Typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

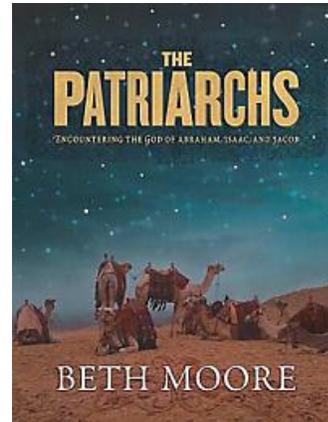
All men over age 18 are encouraged to join. Contact Jerry Sexton at 629-5422 for more information.



## **MEN AT THE CROSS**

## **Women**

### **BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN**



### **THE PATRIARCHS By Beth Moore**

**The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** - provides an in-depth women's Bible study of Genesis 12-50. Discover God's pursuit of a relationship with man, and marvel as His plan to bless all people unfolds. Full of twists and turns, ruin and redemption, revelation and mystery this Bible study keeps participants captivated by the God who stars in it! Explore concepts such as blessing, covenant, and promise, and the bearing each has on a New Testament believer's life today.

**Tuesday Mornings 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

September 13, 27

October 11, 25

November 1, 15, 29

December 12

January 10, 24

February 7, 21

March 7

March 17-18 visit in Cedar Rapids

**Thursday Evenings 7:00 pm – 9: 00 pm**

- September 15
- October 6, 20
- November 3, 17
- December 1, 15
- January 19
- February 2, 16

**WOMEN’S MISSION GUILD (LWML)**

**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.

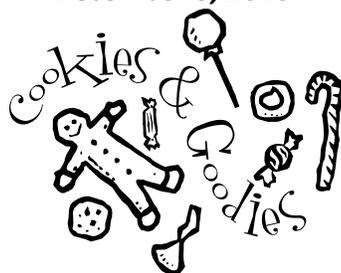
One of our most productive groups is the Comfort-Tiers. This dedicated bunch of stitchers provides World Relief or local charities with more comfort quilts than you could imagine. World Relief efforts are a big part of our mission here. We have two large donations every year.

**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 3, 2016*



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.

## 2016-2017 LWML SCHEDULE

September 9, 10

**Fall Retreat** – Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca  
Westgate Zone hosts *“God’s Plan for Salvation: Everyone Prepared – Everyone Saved!”* Colossians 3:2

September 12 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm

September 19 6:00 pm  
**Salad Potluck** - Report on Oskaloosa District Convention, Fall Rally Planning

October 9  
**LWML Sunday** - *“Come and See”*  
Assist at Sunday services - Bake sale

October 10 LWR Packing 6:00 pm  
Board Meeting 6:45 pm

October TBA **World Relief Pickup**

October 17 5:00 pm  
**Serve Meal at Hope Lodge**

October 29 **Fall Zone Rally**  
Our Redeemer hosts 8:30 am

November 14 7:00 pm  
**Hospice Speaker** (Library)

December 3 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
**Christmas Cookie Walk**  
Chair: Brenda Johnson

December 5 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm

December 12 7:00 pm  
**LWML Christmas Party**

December 14 5:10 pm  
**Advent Supper** – Serving Committee

January 2017 No Meetings

January 28 Baby Kit Baby Shower

February 13 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm

February 20 7:00 pm  
**Vicar Wolfgram** – Bible Study

March 13 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm

March 20 7:00 pm  
**Jerry Wilske** - Bible Study  
 Nominating Committee (Vice President & Treasurer)

March 22 5:10 pm  
**Lenten Supper** – Serving Committee

April 1 **Tasting Bee** 11:00am

April 10 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm

April TBA **Spring Zone Rally**

April 17 7:00 pm  
**Parents and Teachers:  
 Seminary Education in the Sudan**

April TBA  
**Spring World Relief pickup**

May 8 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm  
 2017-2018 Calendar Planning

May 15 6:00 pm  
**Guild Night Out** – TBA

June 22-25  
**LWML Convention – Albuquerque, New Mexico** Theme – *“Jesus Christ Above All”*

July No meetings

August 14 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm

August **Road Trip** – TBA

September 11 **Board Meeting** 6:45pm

September 18 6:00 pm  
**Salad Potluck** - Report on Albuquerque National Convention



**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.

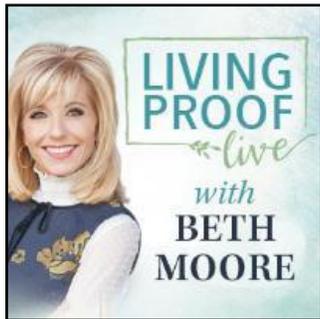
**WATCH FOR EVENTS!**

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

**CONTACT**

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

## BETH MOORE LIVE

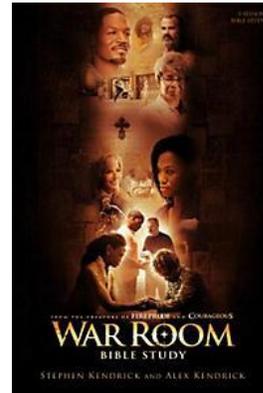


### LIVING PROOF LIVE

March 17-18, 2017 (Friday - Saturday)  
U.S. Cellular Center  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Let's get a group of women together to experience a live Bible study with Beth Moore. Friday's schedule will be 7:00 pm-9:30 pm; Saturday 8:30 am-12:15 pm. Tickets go on sale October 1, 2016. More details to follow. Email Denise Hilda at [smallgroups@ourredeemer.org](mailto:smallgroups@ourredeemer.org) if you are interested in joining the group.

## Marriage



### Marriage Retreat Weekend: War Room

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:6

Plan to join us on Friday evening to watch the movie "War Room" and then join us on Saturday for a day of Bible studies based on the movie. More details to follow.

*January 20/21, 2017*

## Young Adult

# YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

For more information contact:  
Erica Davisson 319-541-7242  
[eadaviss11@gmail.com](mailto: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 us to live and share what we believe and to serve 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 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 are 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 in a bus or in a car, but we will respect the driver and all the other passengers by not being rambunctious. We wait until our leader is ready to go in order to participate in any activity. We also 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 clean up after we leave.

## YOUTH PARENTS

As parents, we have the responsibility to help our children grow in their faith and equip them to become disciples in Christ.

The Lord has given us the task to *"train up our child in the way he should go"* (Proverbs 22:6).



## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

In preparation for full communing membership in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Graders...** The Bible: Old Testament and New Testament
- 7<sup>th</sup> Graders...**
- The Ten Commandments
  - The Lord's Prayer
  - Baptism
- 8<sup>th</sup> Graders...**
- The Apostles' Creed
  - Office of the Keys and Confession
  - The Sacrament of the Altar

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

1. Attend worship service and 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 the Fall Confirmation Retreats.
5. Participate in the Youth-led Worship weekend here at Our Redeemer.
6. Participate in the Spring Confirmation Retreat.
7. Participate in the 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, Pastor, elder, and peers.

**Parents:** Attend two Parent/Teacher Conferences (a mid-year and end of year) with your child's confirmation teacher (Pastor for 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders; Vicar for 7<sup>th</sup> graders).

## CONFIRMATION YOUTH

**Confirmation Youth** events are for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their families. These events provide opportunities for the youth to have fun while walking on their faith journey with their 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 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders 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 are expected to help with our Peach Fundraiser. For more information, please contact the Youth Coordinator at [youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org).

### ACTIVITIES

**Youth** 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. More information is found on the Church calendar and in *Beacon* and *Reflections*.

#### **CONFIRMATION Youth**

Every Sunday	Sunday Bible Study
Every Wednesday	Confirmation Class
November 5/6	Youth-Led Worship

- Confirmation Orientation
- Fall Confirmation Retreats
- Advent Meal
- Christmas Program
- Kings' Party
- IDE Winter Retreat/Sno-lympics
- Spring Confirmation Retreat (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>)
- Vacation Bible School

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

**High School Youth** events are for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their families. Our high school youth group is a place we want high school age kids to feel comfortable, have fun, build relationships, and learn more about our amazing God. What exactly do we do in our high school youth group?? We hold Bible studies, service projects, and hang out together! Anyone who is a freshman to a senior in high school is welcome to join us at any event! We love new faces! Every month of the school year there is an event that you can participate in besides attending weekly Sunday School and Midweek 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. For more information please contact the Youth Coordinator at [youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org).

### ACTIVITIES

**Youth** 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. Look for more on the Church calendar and in *Beacon* and *Reflections*.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL Youth**

Every Sunday	Sunday School
Every Wednesday	Midweek
November 5/6	Youth-Led Worship

- Summer Bash on Coralville Lake
- College Care Packages
- Live Nativity
- Super Bowl Party

- Lenten Meal
- Lock-Out
- Easter Breakfast
- Graduation Breakfast
- Vacation Bible School
- Summer Servant Event - UKANDU
- National Youth Gathering (held every three years, next one is July 11-15, 2019!)

## MIDWEEK

High School Youth meet in the youth room from 6:45 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year for Midweek! Friends are always welcome! We play games and talk about our Christian faith through topical Bible Studies.

## LIVE NATIVITY

Sometimes known as “the church with the real animals at Christmas,” the high school youth host the Live Nativity each December. The scene consists of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and an angel portrayed by the high school students. This event attracts many members of our community and is a great way to proclaim the birth of our Savior!

The Live Nativity will be hosted this year on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. All High School Youth are expected to participate.



## UKANDU

UKANDU is the summer servant event for high school 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).

Dates for UKANDU 2017 will be announced later. Usually, UKANDU is held in June in Chicago.

## **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING (NYG)**

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.

In July 2016, our high school youth and parent chaperones attended the gathering in New Orleans. During the five days of the Gathering, they spent time together in God's Word, worship, service, and fellowship with 25,000+ other Lutherans from across the world. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in St. Louis.

The theme of NYG 2016 was "In Christ Alone" and focused on the book of Philippians using the three themes: Humility, Identity, and Community. In Christ alone, we find true joy that we want to echo to others.

The next **National Youth Gathering** will be held in **Minneapolis** in **July 2019**.

## **FUNDRAISING and PRIZE ACCOUNTS**

All Confirmation and High School youth and their families are expected to assist with the annual **Youth Peach Fundraiser**.



Profits from the Youth Peach Fundraiser support the Confirmation and High School youth events and activities, including Confirmation Retreats, the National Youth Gathering, and Servant Events. The Peach Fundraiser is the primary fundraiser for the youth and earns the largest amount of money to support the youth program.

Each youth (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) has the opportunity to earn money by helping with the Peach fundraiser. Money earned will be added to each youth's church **Prize Account**.

### **PROFIT DISTRIBUTION FOR YOUTH PRIZE ACCOUNTS**

During the Peach Fundraiser, each youth will receive:

- a set amount of money per box sold that was designated with his/her name
- a set amount of money per hour he/she worked
- a set amount of money per hour his/her parent(s) worked

While youth are at Our Redeemer, they can use their Prize Account funds as payment towards any Our Redeemer activity that requires money. For example, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation student can use their Prize Account money towards payment for the Spring Confirmation Retreat. Youth can also save their Prize Account funds from year to year to accumulate money to pay towards the National Youth Gathering fee when they are in high school.

Any questions, please contact the Youth Coordinator at [youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org).

### 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, a 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 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  
\$200/Month

#### *Tuesday/Thursday*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\$147/Month

#### *5 Days*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\$331/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](mailto:preschool@ourredeemer.org).

**Kids Club  
TEACHER ORIENTATION**

Fellowship Hall  
Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Kaja Mueller at 338-5626.

**LITTLE LAMBS** is for children 3 years through Kindergarten. **CROSSTOWN** is for children in 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades are expected to bring their Bibles 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](mailto: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 Bibles. To receive these incentives, students must be on time for Opening at 6:45 pm.

### MEMORY WORK / AWARDS

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 Openings for each age group. We will be working on the same assignments as the Sunday School students. (See list on next page)

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 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Apostle's Creed
	Matthew 28:19-20
	Ephesians 2:8-10
7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Books of the Bible
	2 Timothy 3:15-17
High School	Proverbs 3:5-6
	Psalm 23

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

Any child is eligible to earn special awards that we have created. We work on these throughout the year, and they are awarded on the last day of club. We 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 14, 2016, 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 19, 2017.

Awards night will be the last Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

**SPRING CARNIVAL:** A fun Carnival Night will be held in the spring on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

### **MISSION PROJECTS**

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

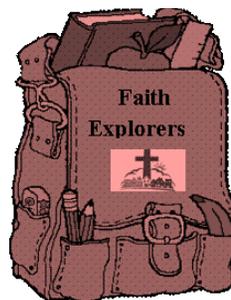
### **BIRTHDAYS**

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**

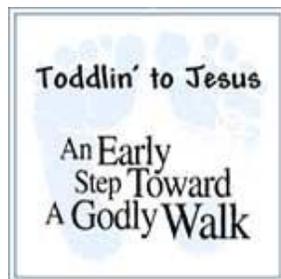


Faith Explorers are on a three-year study cycle that was created by Shana Stuart.

"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 twelve 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 before they start preschool, 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 Kaja Mueller #338-5626 in the church office.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **Sunday School TEACHER ORIENTATION**

Fellowship Hall  
August 21, 2016 after 10:30 am service  
About 30 minutes

*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.

**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 Openings for each age group. We will be working on the same assignments as the Midweek students. (See list in next column.)

**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 more easily.

- 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.

<b>MEMORY ASSIGNMENTS</b>	
Toddlin	The Lord’s Prayer
3 years	Psalms 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 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Apostle’s Creed
	Matthew 28:19-20
	Ephesians 2:8-10
7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Books of the Bible
	2 Timothy 3:15-17
High School	Proverbs 3:5-6
	Psalms 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.*

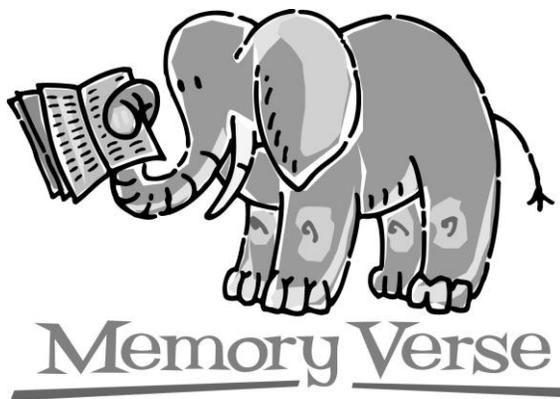
Fourth Grade through Sixth Grades:

- *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 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in our annual Children's Christmas Program. This program held on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 12:00 pm, 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.

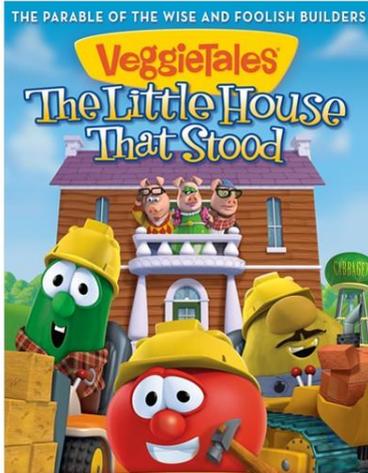
Children will begin learning songs for the program during Sunday School music time in October. There will be a couple of Saturday morning practices in early December as well.

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 Little House that Stood* Dinner Theatre

Sunday, November 20, 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 parable of the wise and the foolish builders**

*“When the Three Little Pigs roll into Cabbageville looking to build some new houses, they meet one builder with a plan and two without a clue! Larry builds with hay, Mr. Lunt with bricks, but only Bob builds his houses on a firm foundation, following the wise plans from the Master Builder's Handbook! Will the Little Piggies make the right choices when it comes to building their houses - and their lives - on solid ground? Find out in this parable that shows kids when they follow God's blueprints, they can stand strong when the storms come!”*

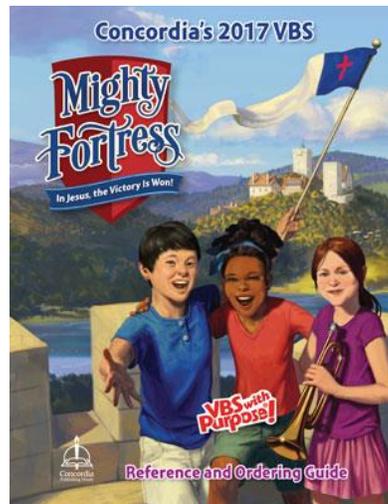
## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Date will be announced in winter

Children age 3 years through 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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**

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!

### **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**

**October 2, 2016**

**February 12, 2017**

### **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](mailto: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**

The Human Care Committee has been active at Our Redeemer for many years. The Committee is quite large but we always have great attendance and this is probably because the projects we are involved with are rewarding and fun.

Our present activities include:

#### **PRIME TIME DINNER**

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

We host a dinner each fall, with entertainment, for members 60 years of age and older. At the dinner we recognize those who have "special" birthdays during the past year. Special birthdays are 75, 80, 85, 90, etc. We also serve a Wednesday night Advent meal and Lenten meal.

#### **ANGEL TREE**

We collect Christmas gifts from congregation members and deliver them to children of prisoners. Sometimes these may be the only gifts these kids receive. In addition, a gift card for groceries is included in their gift bag along with information about Our Redeemer.

### **MITTEN TREE**

We collect mittens, scarves, and hats from congregation members and give them to the Iowa City School District for distribution to students who need them.

### **CRISIS CENTER BIN IN THE NARTHEX**

We collect donated food and paper products from congregation members and it is delivered each week to the Crisis Center. The congregation is very generous as it amounts to a couple of tons of items each year with the VBS donating about 800 items.

### **EMERGENCY FUNDS**

Funds are available, through our committee, as a grant or a loan, for members of Our Redeemer who may be experiencing a short term emergency. Examples could be a fire, loss of job, medical emergency, etc., when a few extra dollars could help carry someone through. Requests for funds should be made by contacting Pastor Hartwig who will then contact the appropriate people from the Human Care Committee.

### **BIRTHDAY CARDS**

Cards, signed by the members of the committee, are sent to congregation members 60 years of age and older.

### **CARE PROJECT**

This is a program where members of Our Redeemer can contact us if they need some short-time help, such as a ride, small household chores, etc. We have a volunteer list of people who are willing to help when a request is made.

### **CONTACT**

The committee meets on a monthly basis. For more information, contact Dave Hintze 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, participated a domestic trip for 2015 to a remote village in central Alaska, and in 2016 went to Swaziland, Africa.

The Mission Committee organizes fundraisers including a mission auction. It sponsors Pancake Day to raise funds for

the Johnson County Crisis Center. Pancake Day 2017 is March 4.

## CONTACT

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

## OUTREACH

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to follow the Great Commission of our Savior Jesus who commanded, "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, vicarage, and parsonage. This is done through both contract and volunteer work. For more information, contact Rob Bowman 325-8989.



## 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 on the [www.ourredeemer.org](http://www.ourredeemer.org) website under publications and a link is emailed each month, as well as being available in paper form on the last Sunday of the month, replacing *Reflections* that week.

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

### CARD SHOP

LWML hosts a Christian card shop 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, encouragement, concern, and joy. Napkins are also offered.

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 in the narthex.

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 is a free service, organized by members of LWML. It provides quality Christian publications. That includes Christian fiction books, inspirational books, devotionals, biographies, Bible commentaries, theology resource materials, Christian music CDs, and much more. DVD movies for families are numerous. A children's book section is also available. A card system is utilized for check-in/check-out.

Please stop by the front library desk where you will find the rules for checking out materials.

If you have questions, or want to make donations to the library, please contact Rita Johnson at 358-8972.

## REFLECTIONS

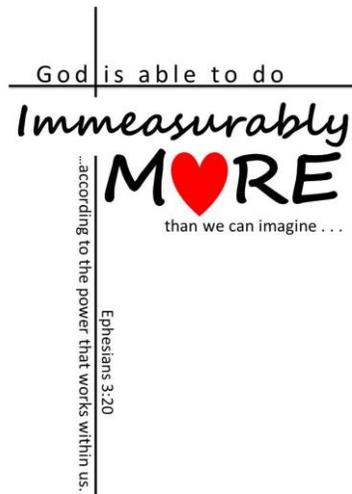
Our weekly church newsletter *Reflections* helps us reflect on how God is working within the Body of Christ here at Our Redeemer.

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](http://www.ourredeemer.org). It is replaced the last Sunday of the month with the *Beacon*.

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:



### **IMMEASURABLY MORE (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. Our way of giving thanks is serving Him with our time, talents, and treasure.

This year's stewardship theme is "Immeasurably More," which comes from Ephesians 3:20-21: <sup>20</sup>*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,* <sup>21</sup>*to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.* (New International Version, NIV)

**October 16, 2016**  
**October 23, 2016**  
**October 30, 2016**  
**November 6, 2016**  
**November 13, 2016**  
**November 20, 2016**



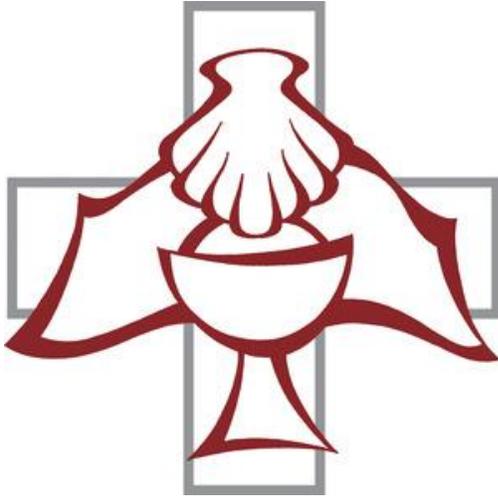
### **STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! (Advent Sermon Series)**

Advent is the season where Christians look back at Christ's first coming and look forward to Christ's second coming.

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!"

During this season of Advent, we will stop, look, and listen for the coming of Jesus Christ. We stop, look, and listen also as Christian stewards. We stop as we cease to do evil and learn to do good. We look at the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. We listen to the voice from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved son; listen to him."

**November 30, 2016 Week 1**  
"Stop!" Isaiah 1:16b-17a, 18  
**December 7, 2016 Week 2**  
"Look!" John 1:29  
**December 14, 2016 Week 3**  
"Listen!" Mark 9:7b



## **THROUGH THE DIVINE SERVICE (Epiphany Sermon Series)**

The Athanasian Creed teaches us that true Christian worship can be recognized in two ways. First, we worship the triune God, that is, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The second way we recognize Christian worship is that it is centered on Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Our worship is “divine” because it is Christ centered.

The structure of the Divine Service is the story of God’s work of salvation – the essence of the Bible itself. In the Divine Service, God invites us to take part in that story, to be immersed in it and find our place at the table. As we take part regularly, this story becomes our story.

### ***January 8, 2017***

Invocation & Baptism

### ***January 15, 2017***

Confession & Absolution

### ***January 22, 2017***

Kyrie & Hymn of Praise

### ***January 29, 2017***

The Readings & Sermon

### ***February 5, 2017***

The Creeds

### ***February 12, 2017***

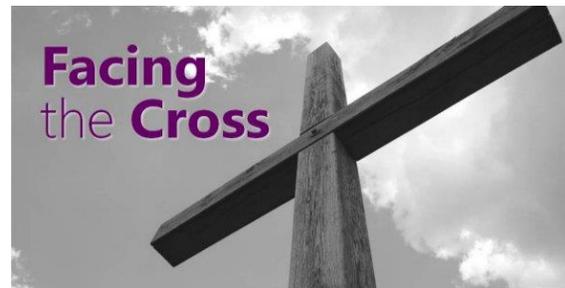
Holy Communion, Part One: Preface to Lord’s Prayer

### ***February 19, 2017***

Holy Communion, Part Two: Pax Domini to Nunc Dimittis

### ***February 26, 2017***

Benedicamus and Benediction



## **FACING THE CROSS (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 the 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.

In this Lenten series, we set our faces on the cross of Christ that lies before us. As we face the cross during these Lenten days, we also face certain aspects in our lives which are not always in line with the cross. We come to terms with them in this series through the cross of Christ—who came to save us that we might see him face-to-face in heaven.

**March 1, 2017**      **Ash Wednesday**  
 “Facing Our Sins” Romans 3:23-24

**March 8, 2017**      **Week 1**  
 “Facing Temptation” Hebrews 4:14-15

**March 15, 2017**      **Week 2**  
 “Facing Our Fears” Isaiah 41:10

**March 22, 2017**      **Week 3**  
 “Facing Our Worldliness” Matthew 6:19-21

**March 29, 2017**      **Week 4**  
 “Facing One Another” Ephesians 4:31-32

**April 5, 2017**      **Week 5**  
 “Facing Suffering” Romans 8:18-19

**April 13, 2017**      **Maundy Thursday**  
 “Facing Denial” Luke 22:54-62

**April 14, 2017**      **Good Friday**  
 “Facing Death” John 19:17-30

**April 16, 2017**      **Easter**  
 “Facing the Future” Matthew 28:1-10

## **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 four 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, November 30, 2016  
 Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
 Wednesday, December 14, 2016  
 Wednesday, December 21, 2016

### **Lenten Dinners**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
 Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
 Wednesday, March 22, 2017  
 Wednesday, March 29, 2017  
 Wednesday, April 5, 2017

## **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 14, 2016, 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 scheduled on a week to week basis, often at 8:00 am Sunday mornings. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 Fruendt (338-5546) about early service and Dave Hintze (351-5873) about late service.

## 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 319-400-1212.

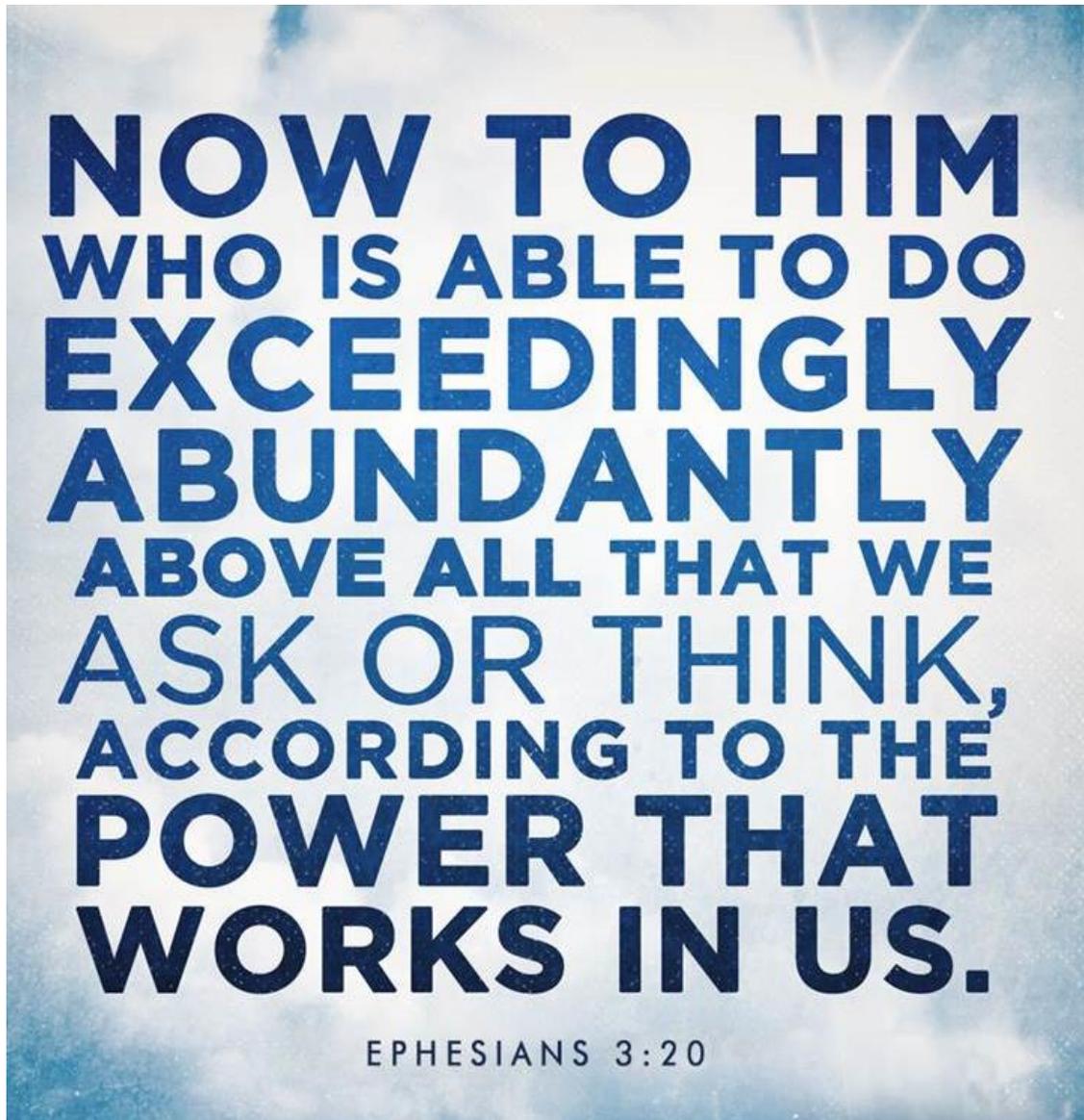


## An up-to-date 2016-2017 Calendar

Available at [www.ourredeemer.org](http://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](mailto:technology@ourredeemer.org)



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



# Directory



<b>UPPER LEVEL</b>	Chapel & Sanctuary	Clergy & Staff Offices	Library & Lounge	Children's Nursery	Music & Choir Rm
<b>COMMON</b>	Educ Office & Classrooms	Public Circulation			
<b>LOWER LEVEL</b>	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 <sup>st</sup> Grade	123-Classroom
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	121-Classroom
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	119-Classroom
4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	208-Classroom
7 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Grade - Little Lambs & CrossTown	215-Classroom
3 <sup>rd</sup> through 5th grade - Faith Explorers	201-Sanctuary

### Wednesday Night Classrooms:

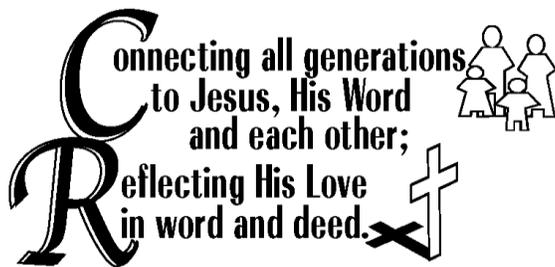
Age/Grade	Room Number
0-3 years	211-213 Nursery
2 years – Kindergarten – Little Lambs	215-Classroom
4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade- Faith Explorers	217-Classroom
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade - CrossTown	219-Classroom
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade- Faith Explorers	210-Classroom
6 <sup>th</sup>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

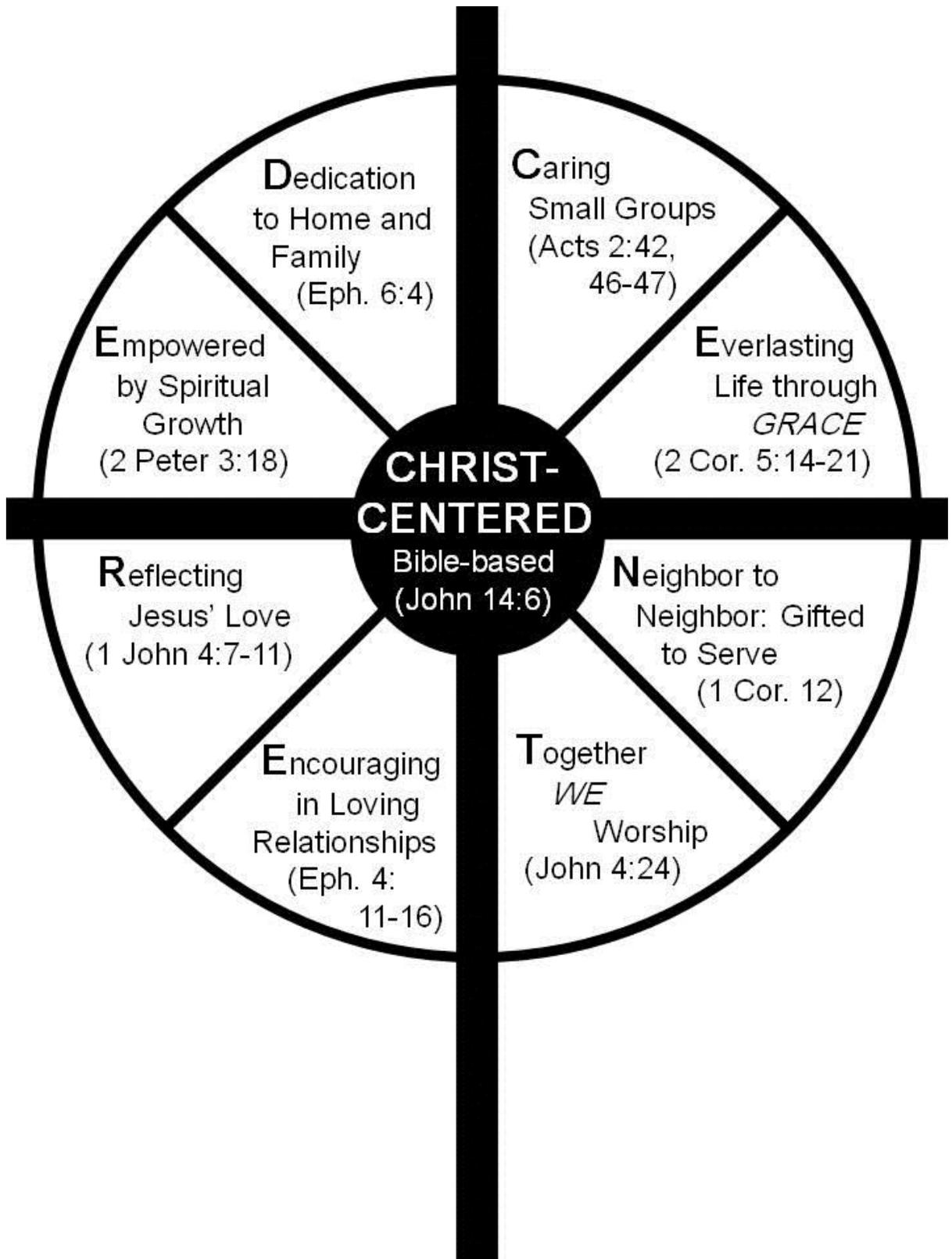
We believe that all of us—individually and corporately—are to reflect Jesus' unconditional love in word and deed, living the Christian life as followers (disciples) of Christ. (1 John 4:7-11)

### **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.

## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool

2301 E. Court Street  
Iowa City, IA 52245