

*They will  
be done*

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**EQUIPPING DISCIPLES  
2017-2018**

## Our Redeemer Staff

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

## ELDERS

Bill Benson {Shut-in Visits}

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 Board of 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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## “Thy Will Be Done”

Our Redeemers theme for this year is *Thy Will Be Done*. Jesus gave us those words in the Lord’s Prayer. *Thy Will Be Done*: Jesus prayed those words in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Thy Will Be Done*: Jesus still uses those words to shape in us a life of repentance, a life of joy, a life of following Him.

*Thy Will Be Done*: this theme encompasses our whole lives. We pray that God’s will is done among us. We pray that God’s will overcomes the power of sin. We pray that God’s will strengthens and preserves us. As it says in our theme verse: *“Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (Hebrews 13:20-21)

The God of peace equips us to do His will. He gives us the promise of faith and new life and in response to this we are able to do His will.

*Thy Will Be Done* encourages us to know God’s will.

Throughout the year we will base our Bible studies and sermon series on knowing God’s will. We will start with knowing God’s will through His act of creation. Adult Education will focus on the Mysteries of Genesis, where we will see how God’s act of creation puts us, his creatures, under God’s will.

From there we will transition into learning God’s will through God’s Son. God’s ultimate will is revealed through Jesus and we will go through the Bible study series “Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?”

After knowing God’s will through creation and through His Son we will then move into knowing God’s will as it was taught by Jesus’ apostles. To do this we will dive into 1 John “so that we may know him who is true” (1 Jn 5:20).

*Thy Will Be Done* not only encourages us to know God’s will, but it exhorts us to live according to His will.

The sermon series will be centered on faith and its ability to let us live according to God’s will.

We will live God’s will by the stewardship of our time, talent, and treasures. We will live God’s will by faith and by trust not in our possessions but in thanksgiving for God’s many blessings.

As we move into Advent, we will be reminded how God’s will is to come again and how we should be living in eager anticipation for the return of our Lord and Master.

In Lent, we will combine both the sermon series and the small groups so that we can equip Our Redeemer’s disciples to live his will.

After Easter, the sermon series will also match the Bible study series where the Epistle of 1 John will serve as our example so that “Thy will be done” echoes throughout the Kingdom of God.



# 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	631-8924



## **CHRISTMAS & COOKIES**

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

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 cancelled 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 cancelled. 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 13, 2017**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2018**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018**



## PANCAKE DAY

**Saturday, March 3, 2018**

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

## Parade Party



Come on **Tuesday, September 19<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

**September 24, 2017 & February 11, 2018**  
*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 22, 2017**

**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 at 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**

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ME TO STUDY THE BIBLE?**

You have asked a good question that deserves a straightforward answer: the Bible, the only source of absolute divine authority, will inform you of God's mind and will for your life (*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17). That is surely reason enough to study God's Word.

### **The Qualities of God's Word**

You can do a quick, informative study of the Bible right now. Just match the following statements about God's Word with the verses listed below:

- The Bible is infallible in its totality.
- The Bible is inerrant in its parts.
- The Bible is complete.
- The Bible is authoritative and final.
- The Bible is totally sufficient for your needs.
- The Bible accomplishes what it promises .
- The Bible provides assurance of salvation:
  - Revelation 22:18-19
  - John 8:47; 20:31
  - Psalm 119:89
  - Psalm 19:7
  - Isaiah 55:11
  - Proverbs 30:5-6

If any of the above words are new to you, here are a few definitions you might find helpful:

- *Inerrancy*: The Bible is free from error in all it affirms.
- *Infallibility*: The Bible is unfailing in its purpose.
- *Sufficiency*: The Bible contains all needed information for Christian living.
- *Authority*: The Bible carries the right to prescribe beliefs and actions.

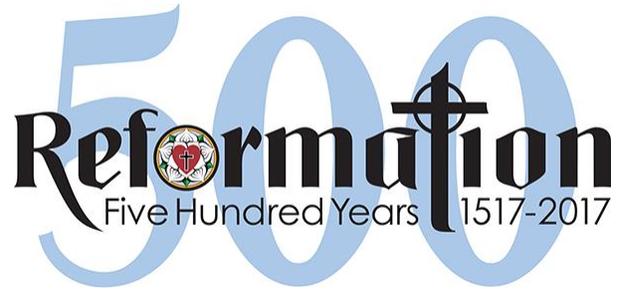
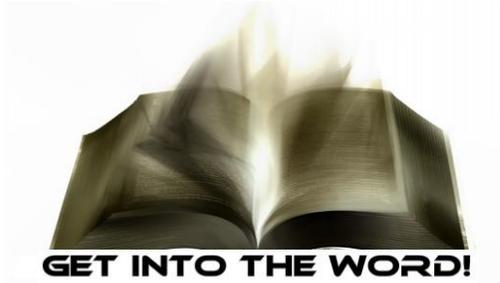
### **The Benefit of Knowing God's Word**

The Bible remains the only source of divine revelation and power that can sustain you as a Christian in your walk with God.

The Bible is the source of:

- **Truth**: "*Sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth*" (John 17:17).
- **God's blessing**: "*But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it'*" (Luke 11:28).
- **Victory**: "*...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*" (Eph. 6:17).
- **Growth**: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2).
- **Power**: "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek*" (Rom. 1:16).
- **Guidance**: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105).

Taken from: <https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA168/Why-is-it-important-for-me-to-study-the-Bible>



## **BIBLE STUDIES**

### **1 JOHN**

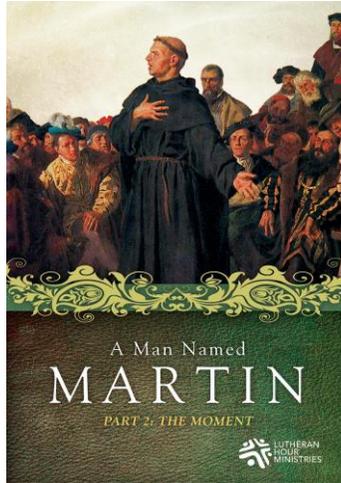
April 8-May 13  
Sunday Morning (6 sessions)  
9:30 am-10:15 am

The first Epistle (Letter) of John is a genuine apostolic epistle and ought to follow right after his gospel. As in the gospel he promulgates faith, so here he opposes those who boast of faith without works. He teaches in many different ways that works are not absent where faith is. Where works are absent, then faith is not genuine, but is lies and darkness. John does this, however, not by harping on the law, but by stimulating us to love even as God has loved us.

## **500<sup>th</sup> REFORMATION STUDY**

October 29  
Sunday Morning  
9:30 am-10:15 am

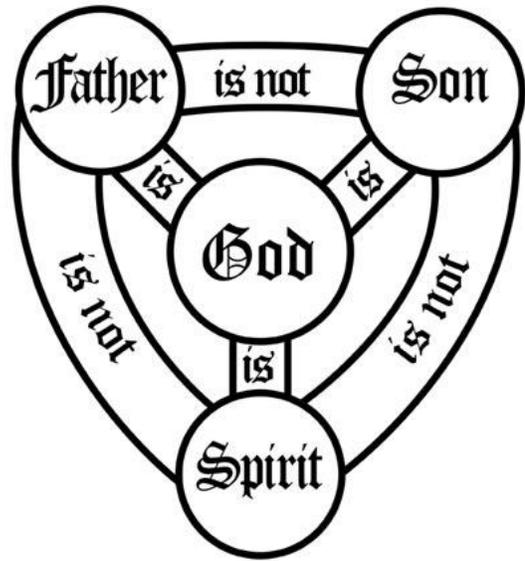
On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses (points for debate) on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. We mark this day as the start of the Protestant Reformation. As we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, we will look at where we have come from to where we are now as Lutherans.



**A MAN NAMED MARTIN PART 2:  
THE MOMENT DVD**

September 13, 20, 27  
Wednesday nights (3 sessions)  
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

In *A Man Named Martin-Part 2*, viewers witness the interplay of personalities and events that led to the Protestant Reformation. From Luther's inner struggles of conscience and faith, to his call for debate with the Pope and to his scathing rebuke of erroneous church practice, this installment examines the semi-scriptural and oft-times unethical teachings and doctrines of the late Medieval Church. How did Luther address them? Attend this Bible study and see!



**ATHANASIAN CREED**

May 27  
Sunday Morning  
9:30 am-10:15 am

Do you ever wonder why we confess our faith using the Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday? There is a lot of content packed into that creed and for good reason. Divisions and arguments existed in the church about the relationship between the three persons of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Join us for a study on the historical developments that led to the Athanasian Creed being written and its importance for us today.



### **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**

**October 20-21, 2017**

**Weekend Immersion**

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

#### **Winter**

**February 2-3, 2018**

**Weekend Immersion**

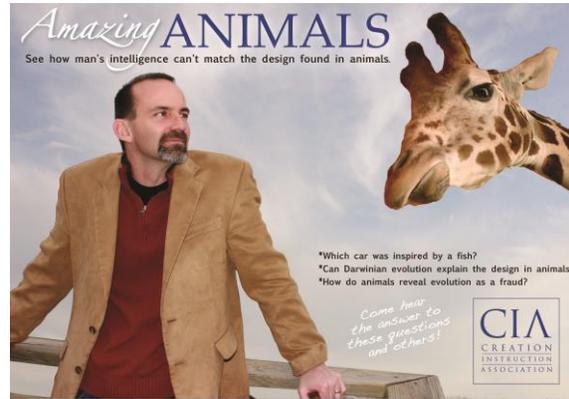
**Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm**

#### **Spring**

**May 4-5, 2018**

**Weekend Immersion**

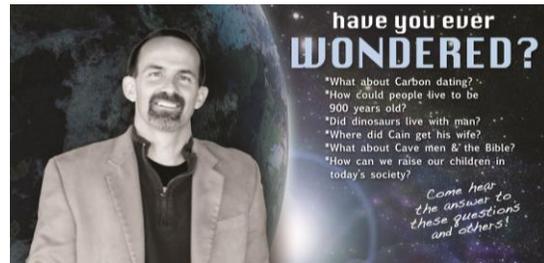
**Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 8:30 – 2:30 pm**



### **BRIAN YOUNG AMAZING ANIMALS PRESENTATION**

November 12  
Sunday Morning  
9:30 am-10:15 am

During the Bible Study hour Brian Young will talk about “Amazing Animals and how man’s intelligence can’t match the design found in animals.” Look forward to another presentation following lunch.

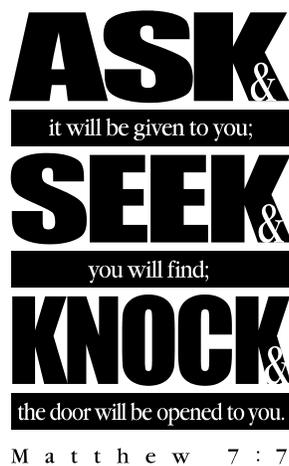


### **BRIAN YOUNG DINOSAUR PRESENTATION**

November 12  
Lunch

Following the late service will be a lunch and a presentation by Brian Young on dinosaurs and how they relate to the Bible.

Brian Young is a nationally known speaker, author of several books, and founder of **Creation Instruction Association**. He has written for various magazines and journals. Brian also served as a teacher and principal for ten years. He currently speaks on creation vs. evolution, as well as scientific creation as a foundation for good science, theology, and moral living. He also debates in universities.



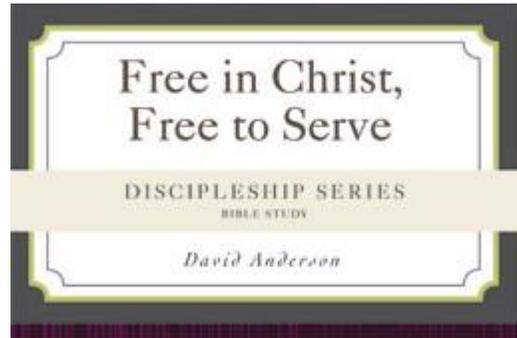
**DISCIPLESHIP SERIES: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK**

December 6-20, January 10  
 Wednesday nights (4 sessions)  
 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31–32

This course is one of several adult Bible studies in the *Discipleship Series*. The purpose of this series is to help Christians dig into Scripture to explore some of the primary teachings of Christ Jesus. That’s how disciples are made--by the power of His Word.

God has promised to answer every prayer, and He does. *Ask, Seek, Knock* challenges readers to look at the role of prayer in their lives.



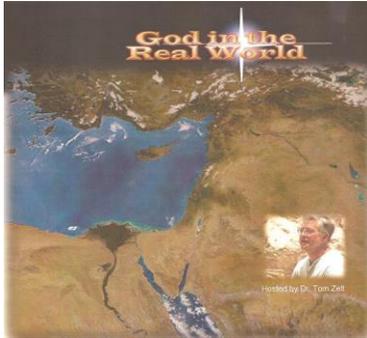
**DISCIPLESHIP SERIES:  
 FREE IN CHRIST, FREE TO SERVE**

January 17, 24, 31, February 7  
 Wednesday nights (4 sessions)  
 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31–32

This course is one of several adult Bible studies in the *Discipleship Series*. The purpose of this series is to help Christians dig into Scripture to explore some of the primary teachings of Christ Jesus. That’s how disciples are made--by the power of His Word.

What does it mean to be free in Christ and free to serve? In this study you will learn about the bondage of sin and its power. You will also study how Christ has set us free from the consequences of sin.



### **GOD IN THE REAL WORLD DVD**

October 4-November 29  
Wednesday nights (8 sessions)  
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The world of Bible times is not all that different from ours. Sure, we are more modern, but the issues, temptations, and struggles are much the same. When God interacted with people's lives, it was not in some make-believe world. It was a real world with the same pressures and decisions we face. This series of studies deals with seven Biblical encounters of God interacting with people in real world situations, connecting what we learn about life and about God in our lives.

### **LCEF**

September 24  
Sunday Morning  
9:30 am - 10:15 am

This Sunday morning, we will be discussing the many ways that the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is a valuable resource for us and the church. See the ways that we can use it to our advantage, especially with regard to our Capital Campaign. Join us to hear about the small things you can do to make a difference.

### **THY WILL BE DONE**

September 10  
Sunday Morning  
9:30 am-10:15 am

The theme of the 2017-2018 Equipping Disciples book is ***"Thy Will Be Done."*** When we look at Luther's meaning for the third petition of the Lord's Prayer we find that it says,

***"The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also."***

We also ask how is God's will done?

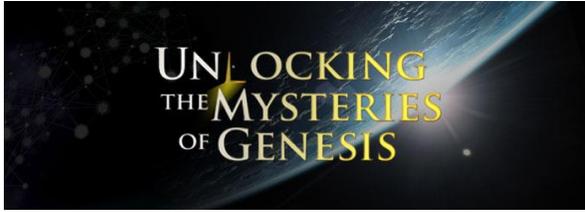
Luther writes:

***"God's Will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die."***

***This is His good and gracious will."***

As we go about our lives, we are reminded that everything we have, our lives, possessions, and especially salvation, are all things that God gives to us according to His good and gracious will.

Thus as we pray for what we want and need, we know that all things are in God's Will, that He orchestrates all that has and will happen. We know that God works all things in His time.

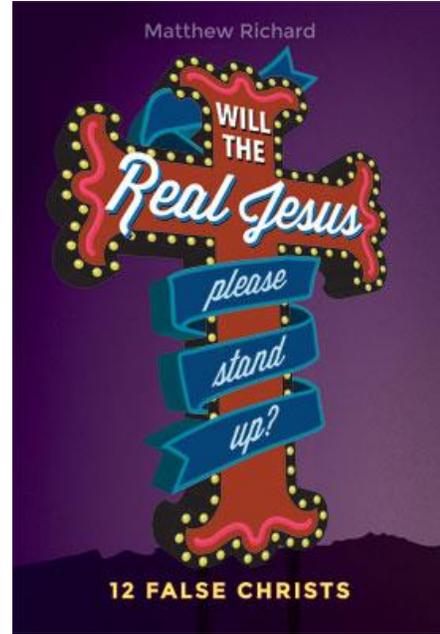


### **UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF GENESIS**

September 17, October 1-October 22,  
November 5, November 18-December 10  
Sunday Mornings (11 sessions)  
9:30 am-10:15 am

Targeted to the millennial generation, *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* supports a Biblical worldview with empirical scientific evidence and offers defensible answers to some of the most provocative and controversial questions of faith and science. Through interviews with leading experts, on-location investigations, insights from cutting-edge research, dynamic animation, and stunning visuals. *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* takes viewers on a memorable journey through some of the most fascinating topics in creation science.

Each episode is designed around a 22-minute video with topics ranging from the origins of life, to evolution, to the age of the universe, and Noah's flood. Following the video will be time for questions and discussion.



### **WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?**

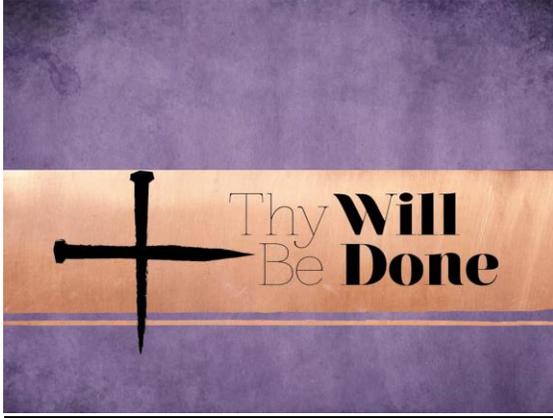
January 7-March 25  
Sunday Mornings (12 sessions)  
9:30 am-10:15 am

When is the last time you stepped up to the counter and ordered one medium-size Jesus, extra generous, and heavy on the bling? Or maybe you like your Jesus supersized! No? Perhaps you prefer yours extra small, and hold the onion, please.

Here is the same question: When's the last time you took a hammer and a chisel to the Jesus of the Bible and formed Him into your own personal Jesus?

*Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?* not only reminds us who the real Jesus of the Bible is, but it also reveals to us twelve false christs who are embraced, loved, promoted, and revered—even by well-meaning Christians.

## CHURCH-WIDE CAMPAIGN



**THY WILL BE DONE**  
**Church-wide Small Group Bible Study**  
**during the Lenten season.**

February 21, 28; March 7; April 4-18  
(6 sessions)

Small groups are encouraged to meet during Lent and participate in this study which will follow the weekly Lent sermons. The Adult Midweek small group will also participate in this study on Wednesday nights from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm on the following Wednesdays:

*Thy*  
WILL  
BE  
*Done*



# ***Bible Studies at a Glance***

## **SUNDAY MORNING**

The Bible study time is offered between the Sunday services for convenience; 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, 2017 (Labor Day)  
December 24, 2017 (Christmas Eve)  
December 31, 2017 (New Year's Eve)  
April 1, 2018 (Easter Sunday)  
May 20, 2018 (Graduation Breakfast)  
June 3, 2018 (Christ Cares Sunday)*

### **September 10 (Rally Sunday)**

Thy Will Be Done

### **September 17-December 17**

Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis

### **September 24**

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

### **October 29**

500<sup>th</sup> Reformation Bible Study

### **November 12**

Brian Young Dinosaur Presentation

### **January 7-March 25**

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

### **April 8-May 13**

1 John Bible Study with Sermon Series

### **May 27**

Athanasian Creed

## **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 13-27**

A Man Named Martin –  
Part 2: The Moment  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

### **October 4-November 29**

God in the Real World  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

### **December 6-20; January 10**

Discipleship Series: Ask, Seek, Knock  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

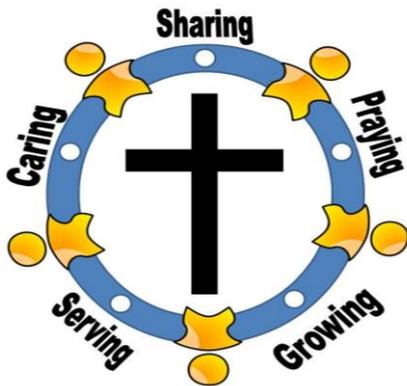
### **January 17, 24, 31; February 7**

Discipleship Series:  
Free in Christ, Free to Serve  
**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

### **February 21, 28; March 7; April 4-18**

CHURCH-WIDE CAMPAIGN  
Thy Will Be Done  
**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 morning. 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 an hour early to the Lunch Bunch Bible study at 11:00

am. 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. Join us at 11:00 am as we study the General Epistles verse by verse.

## THEOLOGY 101

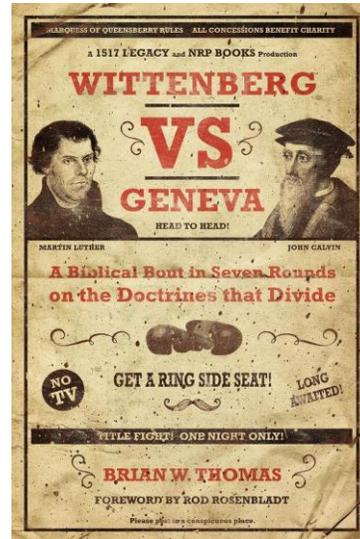


### THEOLOGY 101

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.”

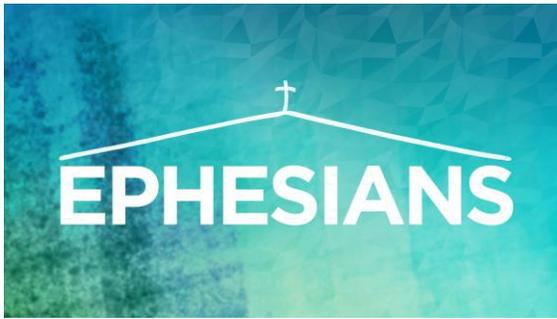
What are the differences between Lutherans and Calvinists, and do they really matter?

In *Wittenberg vs. Geneva*, Brian Thomas provides a Biblical defense of the key doctrines that have divided the Lutheran and Reformed traditions for nearly five centuries.



To get to the heart of the matter, Pastor Thomas focuses solely upon those crucial scriptural texts that have led Lutheran and Reformed scholars down different paths to disparate conclusions as he spars with popular Calvinist theologians from the past and the present.

Date	Topic (7:00 – 9:00 pm)
September 28	Atonement – For Whom did Christ Die?
October 26	Predestination
November 16	The Sacramental Word
January 18	Baptism Saves
February 12	The Lord’s Supper – Part I
March 22	The Lord’s Supper – Part II
April 26	Kept in the True Faith



## **BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN**

### **Ephesians**

***Typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays  
of each month  
8:00 am – 9:30 am  
Begins October 14  
[check the monthly calendar for any  
updates to time and dates]***

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is about the church and about the fellowship of believers who make up the church. It is about us, for by faith we are the church in our time and place. We, by God's grace, are part of God's family – a family united in Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

***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.

## **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 during the months of January, March, May, and October on the fourth Tuesday at 7:30 pm for business, special programs, and fellowship. The LLL Steak Cookout happens yearly on the fourth Tuesday of August at 6:30 pm. This cookout is at Our Redeemer. Men bring their own meat and a dish to share. The coals on a hot grill will be ready.

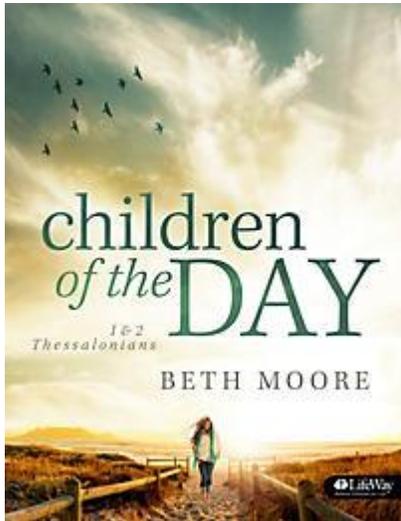
One important outreach ministry this group supports is 511 Melrose, the meeting place for Iowa City Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

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



**MEN AT THE CROSS**

**BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN**



**CHILDREN OF THE DAY**  
**By Beth Moore**

The New Testament believers carried the Spirit of God as they walked along the shores of Thessalonica, just as you carry that light today. Your circumstances and conditions are not coincidental in your journey. God's timing is impeccable. Join Beth on the Thessalonian shores as you face real crises, real medical diagnoses, real afflictions, real relationships, real doubts, real concerns, and real fears. Let the tide wash your eyes with fresh vision. Don't let pride or timidity come between you and the presence of God. Press in tightly. This is your journey to the shores of Thessalonica where you'll write your name in the sand throughout a 9-session study.

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

- Sept. 19
- Oct. 3, 17, 31
- Nov. 14
- Dec. 5
- Jan. 9, 23
- Feb 6, 20
- Mar. 6

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

- September 21
- October 5, 19
- November 9, 30
- December 14
- January 11, 25
- February 15



## **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 Shop 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.

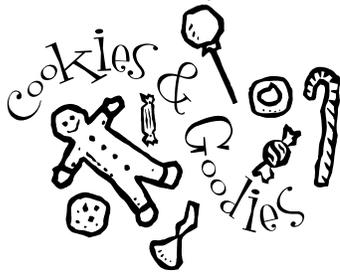
### **SUPPORTING MISSIONS**

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 2, 2017*



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.

### 2017-2018 LWML SCHEDULE

September 8, 9

**Fall Retreat** – Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

*“Unchangeable God in a Changing World”*

Psalm 102:25-28

September 18 6:00 pm

**Salad Potluck** – Albuquerque National Convention

October 1

**LWML Sunday** - *“Be Ready”*

Assist at Sunday services - Bake Sale

October 7

**Fall Zone Rally**

St. Paul's, Mt. Vernon

October 9

**LWR Packing**

7:00 pm

General Meeting

October 16

**Tim Bickel**

7:00 pm

*Open to congregation*

October 21

**World Relief Pickup**

November 13

**Serve Meal at Hope Lodge**

5:00 pm

December 2

9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Christmas Cookie Walk**

Chair: Brenda Johnson

Donna Saehler

December 4

**Board Meeting**

6:45 pm

December 11

7:00 pm

**LWML Christmas Party**

December 13

5:10 pm

**Advent Supper** – Serving Committee

January 2018 No Meetings

February 19

7:00 pm

**Scott Kibby**, Liberty High School Principal

Nominating Committee (President & Secretary)

March 19

7:00 pm

**Vicar Scheele** – Bible Study

Nominations for officers

March 21 5:10 pm  
**Lenten Supper** – Serving Committee

April 7 **Tasting Bee** 11:00am

April TBA **Spring Zone Rally**

April 16  
**LWR Kit Packing** 6:00 pm  
**Cathy Gehris, Hy-Vee Nutritionist** 7:00 pm

April TBA  
**Spring World Relief Pickup**

May 14 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm  
2018-2019 Calendar Planning

May 21 6:00 pm  
**Guild Night Out** – Rapid Creek Cidery

June 15-16  
**LWML District Convention,**  
**Cedar Rapids Marriott**  
Theme – *“Grafted to the Vine”* John 15:16-17

July No meetings

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

August **Road Trip – Scattergood**

September 17 6:00 pm  
**Salad Potluck** - Report on District  
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 12:43

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 Cheryl Davisson at 319-648-4660.



**MARRIAGE RETREAT WEEKEND:**

January 19 and 20, 2018

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

**6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**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**

*“and how from **childhood** you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for **teaching**, for reproof, for correction, and for **training** in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, **equipped for every good work**.” ~ 2 Timothy 3:15-17*



**YOUTH PARENTS**

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

The Lord has given you the task to “*train up your child in the way he should go*” (Proverbs 22:6).



Nov 12 Coffee & Treats *All Youth hosts*  
 Speaker: Brian Young during Sunday  
 School and after late service

Nov 29 8th Grade Parent Meeting (during  
 Confirmation class)

Dec 9 Christmas Program Rehearsal  
 Dec 16 Christmas Program Rehearsal  
 Dec 17 Christmas Program  
 Dec 20 Youth Advent Meal *hosted by*  
*Confirmation families*

Dec 25 CHRISTMAS

Jan 10 Midweek Meal  
 Jan 14 Coffee & Treats *8<sup>th</sup> grade hosts*  
 Snow Tubing at SnowStar  
 Jan 21 Sunday School Sunday  
 Jan 26-27 Confirmation Winter Retreat and Kings  
 Party

Feb 7 Midweek Meal  
 Feb 11 Coffee & Treats *7<sup>th</sup> grade (Alt-Faudel)*  
 Trivia Challenge Confirmation Team  
 Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 4 Coffee & Treats *7<sup>th</sup> grade (Holman-  
 Schrader)*  
 March 14 Spring Break – Worship at 6:10 pm  
 March 21 Spiritual Growth Event  
 March 25 Palm Sunday / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

April 1 EASTER SUNDAY / Easter Breakfast  
 April 20-22 Confirmation Spring Retreat to MN  
 April 25 Midweek Celebration

May 20 Graduation Breakfast *hosted by 9<sup>th</sup> –  
 11<sup>th</sup> grade families*

June 10 Coffee & Treats *6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades host*  
 Aug 12 Coffee & Treats *All Youth host (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>  
 grades)*

June/July

Peach Sale fundraiser  
 Christ Cares Sunday (June 3)  
 VBS  
 Summer Youth Events  
 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**

*9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders*

Weekly Activities

Every Sunday at 9:15 am Sunday School  
 Every Wednesday at 6:45 pm Midweek

2017-18 HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

Sept 10 Rally Day 9:15 am  
 Fall Youth KickOff 1:00 pm

Sept 13 Midweek Meal 6:00 pm  
 Midweek classes start 6:45pm

Sept 24 Trivia Challenge High School Team  
 Sept 27 Picture Night during Midweek class

Oct 4 Midweek Meal  
 Oct 15 Fall on the Farm  
 Oct 25 Youth Worship Skit practice  
 Oct 29 Youth Worship rehearsal

Nov 1 Midweek Meal  
 Youth Worship rehearsal

Nov 5 Youth Worship rehearsal  
 Nov 8 Youth Worship rehearsal  
 Nov 11-12 YOUTH WORSHIP WEEKEND & PIE  
 SALE FUNDRAISER

Nov 11 Pie Making Fundraiser 8am-12pm  
 Youth Worship rehearsal 3-5pm

Nov 11 Youth Worship Service 5:30 pm  
 Dinner at Wendy's *following service*

Nov 12 Coffee & Treats *All Youth hosts*  
 Youth Worship Service 8:00 am  
 Speaker: Brian Young *during*  
*Sunday School and after late service*  
 Youth Worship Service 10:30 am

Nov 17-19 District Youth Gathering *in Omaha*  
 Nov 29 Set up for Cookie Walk

Dec 3 Coffee & Treats *High School hosts*  
 Dec 17 Live Nativity & Christmas Party  
 Dec 20 Jesus' Birthday Party w/Kids Club

Jan 10 Midweek Meal  
 Jan 14 Snow Tubing at SnowStar  
 Jan 21 Sunday School Sunday  
 Jan 24 College Care Packages w/Kids Club

Feb 4 Super Bowl Party  
 Feb 7 Midweek Meal  
 Feb 11 Trivia Challenge High School Team  
 Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Worship Service  
 Feb 16-17 Lock Out  
 Feb 28 Youth Lenten Meal *hosted by High School families*  
 Card Night, make cards for confirmands

March 14 Spring Break – Worship at 6:10 pm  
 March 21 Spiritual Growth Event *High Schoolers present gifts to 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands*  
 March 25 Palm Sunday / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
 March 28 Prayer Walk and Clean Up  
 March 31 Set Up for Easter Breakfast *High School Families*

April 1 EASTER SUNDAY / Easter Breakfast *High School Families host*

April 25 Midweek Celebration

May 20 Graduation Breakfast *hosted by 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade families*

July 8 Coffee & Treats *High School hosts*  
 Aug 12 Coffee & Treats *All Youth host (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)*

June/July

Peach Sale fundraiser  
 Christ Cares Sunday (June 3)  
 Summer Youth Events  
 VBS  
 UKANDU – *Summer Servant Event*  
 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade  
 National Youth Gathering (*held every three years, next one is July 11-15, 2019!*)

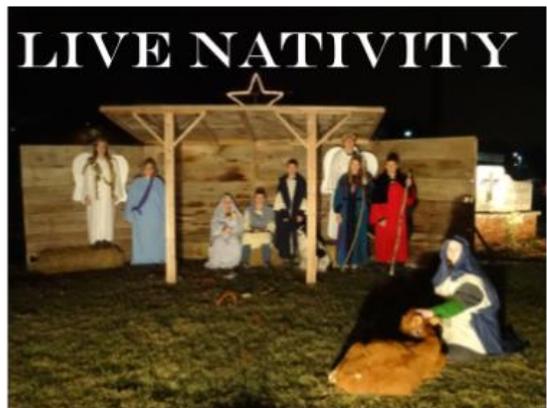
## MIDWEEK

During Confirmation class time on Midweek Wednesdays during the school year, the **High School Youth** meet in the **youth room** from 6:45 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.! We learn about our Christian faith through topical **Bible Studies**, participate in **service projects** and **fellowship activities** throughout the year. *Friends are always welcome!*

## 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 17<sup>th</sup>**.



## SUMMER SERVANT EVENT – UKANDU



UKANDU is the summer servant event for high school youth at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Participants can expect to serve alongside 250-300 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 2018 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.

During the five days of the Gathering, we will spend 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 2019 will be **“Real. Present. God.”** The theme is rooted in Psalm 46. The Psalm writers ask big questions about life — our identity, living in community, and the purpose of our individual and collective lives. To those questions, God answers us again and again that He is with us and He brings us stillness in His mercy and love.

The next **National Youth Gathering** will be held in Minneapolis in July 2019. The Youth Gathering registration process begins in September 2018.

**FUNDRAISING and PRIZE ACCOUNTS**

All Confirmation and High School youth and their families are part of 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 **Youth 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 **Youth Peach Fundraiser**. Money earned will be added to each youth’s church **Prize Account**.

**Prize Account funds** can be used as payment towards any Our Redeemer youth activity that requires money.

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.

## **KIDS CLUB**

**Kids Club** is a church-sponsored weekly program for young people. For more information about our Kids Club, please contact church office.

**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. Call 338-5626 or email [redeemer@ourredeemer](mailto:redeemer@ourredeemer) for more information.

### **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 the church office. 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	Apostles' 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 13, 2017, 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 18, 2018.

Awards night will be the last Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

**MIDWEEK CELEBRATION:** The finale for the Midweek year will be Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

### **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.

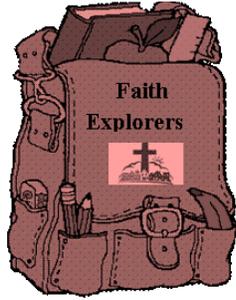
### **BIRTHDAYS**

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



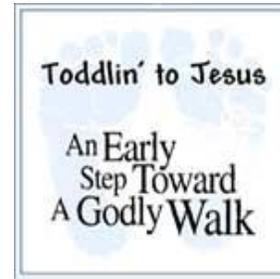
Faith Explorers, grades 3 through 5, are on a three-year study cycle:

"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 da Vinci's Last Supper painting.

These studies were created by Shana Stuart.



## 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" during the Sunday School hour, starting at 9:15 am during the school year.

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 the church office.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*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 meet in the music room at 9:15 am and then are excused to go to their classrooms at 9:30 am. The fourth through eighth grades meet 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 escort their children to the Chapel for music from 10:00 to 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 are taught in the Openings for each age group. We work 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.
- Memory work 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.
- Memorization reminds the students of their beliefs and provides strength to live accordingly.
- It has learning potential.

### WHAT IS OUR REDEEMER'S GOAL?

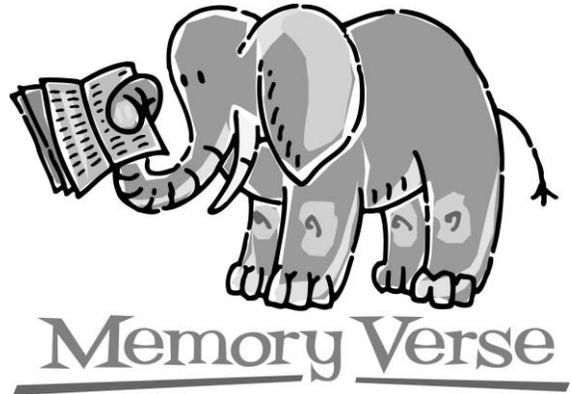
Memory selections:

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 are adapted to meet differences in memorizing ability.
3. Are taught meaningfully and enjoyably.

4. Are meaningfully applied to the life of the student.

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

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	Apostles' 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



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:

- *Apostles' 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

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 on page 51 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 17, 2017, during both the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services, offers 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 take some time of their class to practice a few songs they will sing before the program on the assigned day.

Children will learn 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.

## 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 Marnie Schrader, Children's Ministry, at 319-530-1563 or [childrensministry@ourredeemer.org](mailto:childrensministry@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 is located just inside the main entrance of the church in the narthex. In addition to the guest registry, there is information about Our Redeemer.

### **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.

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, one 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.

### **OPEN ARMS**

### **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 ACTIVITY**

*Your Travel Tales*  
**October 15, 2017**  
**Brunch**

### **ASSIMILATION PARTICIPATION**

The committee typically meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Cory Strumpel at 319-627-4322 or [tomandcory@gmail.com](mailto:tomandcory@gmail.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 popular and active, probably because the projects we are involved with are rewarding and fun.

Our present activities include:

### **PRIME TIME DINNER**

**Sunday, November 5, 2017**

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 they are delivered each week to the Crisis Center. The congregation is very generous as it amounts to a couple of tons of items each year, including the VBS donation of approximately 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 351-5873.

## **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.

Medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, and shower chair are available for loan. Please contact the church office.

## **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. Past mission trips have included tornado recovery work in Arkansas, work in a remote village in central Alaska, and a medical mission trip to Swaziland, Africa. Mission Committee is planning a trip to Panama in March 2018.

The Mission Committee organizes fundraisers including a mission auction, next held this year on October 8, 2017. It sponsors Pancake Day to raise funds for the Johnson County Crisis Center. Pancake Day 2018 is March 3.

### **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 Arlan or Marlene Thompson at #319-338-2938.

## **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.

## 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 and a paper form is available 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.

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:



### **Thy Will Be Done: Steward our Hearts (Stewardship Sermon Series)**

We pray that God's will is done with our time, talents, and treasures. Join us as we dive into what God's word has to tell us about His will for us as stewards of His creation.

#### **September 24**

*Prepare Our Hearts to Offer Thanks to You,  
O God! Ezekiel 36:25-27*

#### **October 22**

*Ten Bags of Gold Relate to the Plate,  
Malachi 3:10*

#### **November 19**

*What Do You Mean, "Sacrifice" ?!  
2 Corinthians 8:3-5*



*Reverse, Forward & Home*

### **Thy Will Be Done: Reverse, Forward, & Home (Advent Sermon Series)**

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

During this advent season, we will look at how God is the great reversal and how He brings us from death back to life. Then we will see how God moves us forward into paradise. Finally, Christ our Landlord will bring us back home to Eden.

#### **December 6, 2017 Week 1**

Reverse – Mount Eden (Isaiah 2:1-5)

#### **December 13, 2017 Week 2**

Forward – The Paradise of the Church (Isaiah 11:1-10)

#### **December 20, 2017 Week 3**

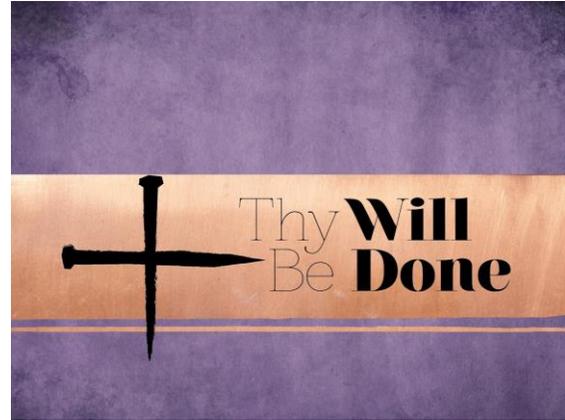
Home – Adams and Eves Welcomed Back Home (Isaiah 35:1-10)



## Thy Will Be Done: Out of Love (1 John Sermon Series)

“Thy Will be Done: Out of Love,” echoes and continues the historic Gospel in a Nutshell of John 3:16, “because God so loved the world.” In John’s first Epistle we hear how to walk in the light of the Gospel, how to love as God’s children, and how His love is shown not in words, but in Deed and Truth. Because God is Love, we can overcome the world through faith. This faith then gives us the means to forgiveness and eternal life in His Son.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>April 8</b>  | 1 John 1:1—2:2<br>Walk in the Light          |
| <b>April 15</b> | 1 John 3:1–7<br>Love as God’s Children       |
| <b>April 22</b> | 1 John 3:16–24<br>Love in Deed and in Truth  |
| <b>April 29</b> | 1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)<br>Because God is Love |
| <b>May 6</b>    | 1 John 5:1–8<br>Faith Overcomes the World    |
| <b>May 13</b>   | 1 John 5:9–15<br>Life in His Son             |



## Thy Will Be Done (Lenten Sermon Series)

Our journey through Lent in 2018 will be shaped by the theme, **Thy Will Be Done**. On Sundays, we will be considering God’s will in light of that prayer of Jesus. How do we think about God’s will and God’s Kingdom, or God’s will for salvation, or God’s will when we are not willing? How does the prayer “Thy Will Be Done” affect how I see my own will, my own expectations, my own suffering?

This sermon series is not only a way of committing our vision more and more securely to God’s will and direction, it also participates in the vision and mission God is shaping in us. First, it is both creative and focused on Jesus. Second, the goal of this sermon series extends beyond the pulpit. We provide Small Group discussion questions that align with the themes and reading of our sermon series. Both of these combined will positively impact the daily practice of honest and formative conversation with Jesus as we pray together: **Thy Will Be Done**.

**February 14 (Ash Wednesday)**—The Lord’s Prayer: God’s Will and the Kingdom (Matthew 6:10)

**February 18**—The Gethsemane Prayer:  
God’s Will, Not My Will (Matthew 26:39)

**February 25**—The Potter and the Clay:  
God’s Will and My Expectations (Romans  
9:21)

**March 4**—A Thorn in the Flesh: God’s Will  
and My Suffering (2 Corinthians 12:9)

**March 11**—God’s Will for Salvation: That  
All People Be Saved (1 Timothy 2:4)

**March 18 (Palm Sunday)**—God’s Will  
When We are Not Willing (Luke 13:34)

## **ADVENT AND LENTEN SUPPERS**

All are invited to come!

During the seasons of Advent and Lent,  
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 a special  
worship service at 6:10 pm. There is no  
cost, only a free-will donation to cover  
expenses.

### **Advent Dinner**

Wednesday, December 6, 2017  
Wednesday, December 13, 2017  
Wednesday, December 20, 2017

### **Lenten Dinners**

Wednesday, February 21, 2018  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Wednesday, March 7, 2018  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018

## **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 6:45  
pm, starting September 6, 2017, 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@ourredeemer.org](mailto:prayerchain@ourredeemer.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@ourredeemer.org](mailto:prayerchain@ourredeemer.org).

When requesting a 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 he also stated, “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. For more information, contact Allison Haack at 319-400-1212.

### **An up-to-date 2017-2018 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)

# Directory



### Sunday Morning Openings

Age/Grade	Room Number
4 year olds through 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	206-Music Room

### Sunday Morning Classrooms:

Age/Grade	Room Number
0-3 years	215-Toddlin' Classroom
Preschool 1 (3 year olds)	217-Classroom
Preschool 2 (4 year olds)	219-Classroom
Kindergarten	117-Classroom
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	119-Classroom
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	121-Classroom
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	123-Classroom
6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	203E-Board Room
High School	110-Classroom
Adult	101-Fellowship Hall

### Sunday Morning Closings

Age/Grade	Room Number
5 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	202-Chapel of the Shepherd

### Wednesday Night Openings

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

### Wednesday Night Classrooms:

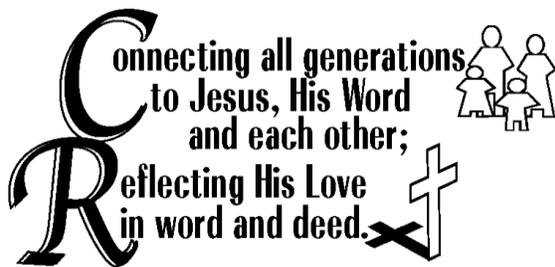
Age/Grade	Room Number
0-3 years	211-213 Nursery
2 years – Kindergarten – Little Lambs	215-Classroom
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade - CrossTown	219-Classroom
3 <sup>th</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade- Faith Explorers	121-Classroom
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group, Girls 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group, Girls	117-Classroom
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group, Boys 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group, Boys	119-Classroom
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group, Boys	113-Education Office
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	208/210-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 in 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)

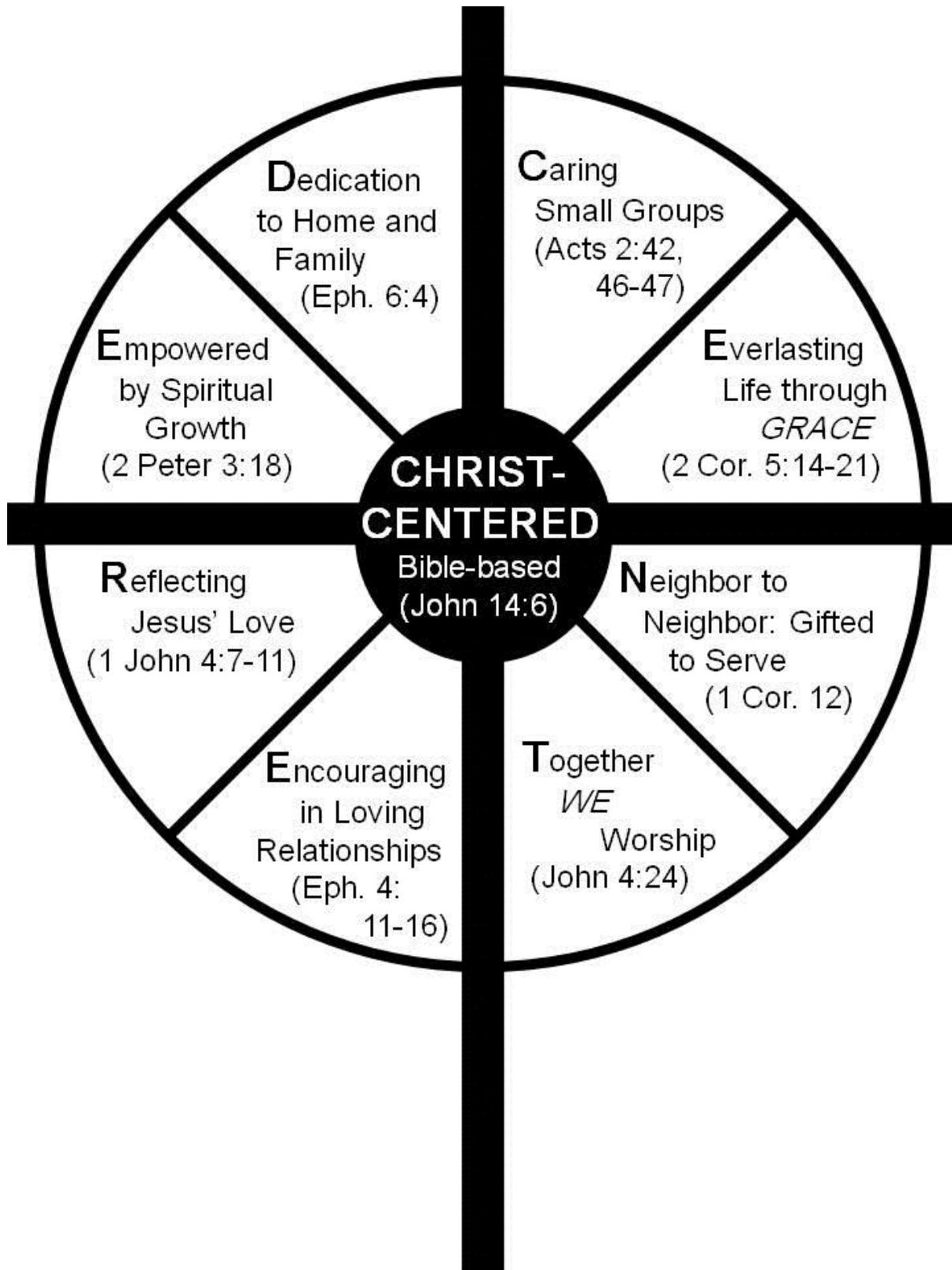
### **Empowered by Spiritual Growth**

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 are 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 are **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 seasons of Advent and Lent.

## 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