



Rejoice in
THE LORD
always

Again I say
REJOICE

Philippians 4:4

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

**EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
2018-2019**

Our Redeemer Staff

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

ELDERS

Bill Benson
Vaughn Davisson
Jim Eick
Skip Kempnich
Eric Kooker
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.

Table of Contents

Our Redeemer Staff	2	Toddlin' to Jesus	36
Elders	2	Sunday School	37
Stephen Ministry	5	Children's Christmas Program & Lunch	39
Rejoice	4	Vacation Bible School	39
Events	6	Service Connections:	40
The Gospel of Mark	6	Assimilation	40
Christmas & Cookies	7	Children's Ministry	41
MidWeek Events	7	Human Care	41
Pancake Day	8	Health Ministries	42
Parade Party	8	Mission	42
Trivia Challenge	8	Outreach	43
Trunk-or-Treat	9	Properties	43
Adult	10	Administrative Connections:	44
Importance of Bible Study	10	Beacon	44
Bible Studies	11	Card Shop	44
Sunday Morning	18	Communication Cabinets	44
Wednesday Morning	18	Communication Racks	44
Wednesday Evening	18	Devotions	45
Small Group Ministry	19	Library	45
Comfort-Tiers	20	Reflections	45
Lunch Bunch	20	Rejoice with Generosity	
Theology 101	21	(Stewardship Sermon Series)	46
Men	22	Christ Is (Advent Sermon Series)	46
Bible Study For Men	22	Rejoice! I tell You the Truth	
Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)	23	(Lenten Sermon Series)	47
Women	23	Joy in Christ (Philippians Sermon Series)	47
Bible Study For Women	23	Advent and Lenten Suppers	48
Women's Mission Guild (LWML)	24	Lenten Prayer Walk	48
Marriage	27	Acolytes	48
Young Adults	27	Adult Choir	48
24 Below	27	Baptism	48
Youth	28	Children's Worship Support	49
Youth Parents	28	Fellowship Time	49
Confirmation classes	28	Greeters	49
High School Youth	30	Handbell Choir	49
Midweek	30	Nursery	49
Live Nativity	31	Organ and Piano	50
Summer Servant Event – UKANDU	31	Praise Team	50
National Youth Gathering (NYG)	32	Prayer Chain	50
Fundraising and Prize Accounts	32	Special Music	50
Children	33	Technology Assistants	51
Cradle Roll	33	Ushers	51
Our Redeemer Preschool	33	Youth Choir	51
Kids Club	34	Worship Services	56

“Rejoice”

Our Redeemer’s theme for this year will be *Rejoice!* We are called to rejoice at all times and in all places, both good and bad. Ordinarily, this would not be possible, but because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, we have inherited forgiveness of sins and eternal life, which give us reason to rejoice in the Lord always.

Rejoice! is a theme that should define our existence as God’s children. We rejoice because God created us to be part of His beloved creation. We rejoice because God loved us even while we were sinners. We rejoice because Jesus has defeated our enemies, death, and the devil. We rejoice because Jesus is our strength when we have none. In our moments of joy and in our times of trial, we rejoice, because our hope is in Jesus. As our theme verse says, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4)

Every blessing we have comes from God, who created and maintains the universe. His will is for us to rejoice in the gifts He gives, so this year we will remember to rejoice from season to season as we go out into the world and do the work He gives us to do.

Throughout the year we will base our Bible studies and sermon series on rejoicing in the Lord. We will start by learning our new theme song, “Rejoice!” by Dustin Kensrue. The lyrics of this song will direct us to Scripture about God’s desire for us to rejoice. It will also serve as a jumping off point for our *Rejoice!* theme this year.

We will then learn how to rejoice in the way that God has ordered the world. Adult education will focus on rejoicing in God’s purpose that He has built into creation and restored through Christ’s work on the cross. The study will outline the ways in which God designed His creation to operate in submission to Him, giving all praise and thanks for His good gifts.

The *Rejoice!* theme emphasizes our relationship to God as creatures to our creator. Everything we have, even our very existence, is a gracious gift from Him.

The obvious tension is that we do not always feel like rejoicing. Life can be cruel, and at times rejoicing feels inappropriate if not impossible when the cares of the world weigh heavy upon us. These sermon series will focus on the fact that Jesus is our Lord, who provides us with what we need most: forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. The result of this understanding is that we rejoice in the blessings He gives and continue to serve Him in faith, even when we do not feel like it.

Come join us as we learn to *Rejoice!* through the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter, culminating in our study of Philippians, which will be the focus of our post-Easter sermon series and our adult Sunday school class.

Rejoice **IN THE**
LORD!



Stephen Ministry

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is served by several Stephen Ministers.

Their vision statement is **The Our Redeemer Stephen Ministry prepares and supports laity who provide Christ-centered care to people facing a variety of crises or who 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



The Gospel of Mark

For decades, scholars have increasingly placed The Gospel of Mark in an oral context, believing it to be a written document intended to be read aloud to a gathered audience. Concordia Seminary’s dramatic presentation of The Gospel of Mark is not simply a recitation of the text, nor is it a play based upon it. Instead, you will hear the text of Mark come alive as never before in an interpretation of the way in which it might have impacted those who first received it.

Unlike the standard assessments of Mark’s Gospel that understand it as the earliest, simplest, and least sophisticated of the four Gospels, this presentation proceeds with the understanding that the Gospel of Mark is not only a later document but that it provides a complex and sophisticated account of the life of Jesus, designed for rhetorical impact.



Presenters

Rev. Dr. James Voelz
Professor, Exegetical
Theology Concordia
Seminary Mark 1:1 –
1:8

Rev. Dr. Kent Bureson
Associate Professor,
Systematic Theology
Concordia Seminary
Mark 8:27 – 10:52

Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer
President
Concordia Seminary
Mark 1:9 – 4:34

Rev. Dr. Ron Rall
Pastor
St. Timothy Lutheran
Church, St. Louis
Mark 11:1 – 13:37

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Lutheran Hour
Speaker
Mark 4:35 – 8:26

Rev. Dr. David Schmitt
Professor,
Practical Theology
Concordia Seminary
Mark 14:1 – 16:8

Coming to
**Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church**

**Saturday, November 3
6:30 – 9:00 pm**



**Concordia
Seminary**
ST. LOUIS

801 SEMINARY PLACE · ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 · WWW.CSLEU · 314-505-7000



CHRISTMAS & COOKIES

Sunday, December 9, 2018
Following 10:30 am Worship

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 event 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
	Adult Choir
7:00	Adult Classes
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 FOR MIDWEEK & CONFIRMATION CLASSES

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 Lenten meals.) A free-will offering will be collected at the door to help cover the costs of the meal. All confirmation (6th-8th grade) and high school families will be assigned a night to set up /clean up. Midweek Meals start at 6:00 pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, September 12, 2018
Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
Wednesday, February 6, 2019





PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, March 2, 2019

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 **Wednesday, September 26th**, at **5:30 pm** to the church parking lot to watch the **Homecoming Parade**.

Bring your own chairs or blankets to sit curbside.

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

TRIVIA CHALLENGE



CHALLENGE

October 21, 2018, & February 10, 2019
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. 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 28, 2018

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.
3. You don't have to have children to register your vehicle.
4. Register if you can bring something to share.

Invite your friends and join us for this fun family event!

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

The Bible isn't an easy book. It was inspired by God in an ancient time through people of different languages and cultures than our own, whose immediate audiences were different from us in many ways. It's also a book about God and the work He's doing in the world. A work by such a divine Author, on such an immense topic, *should* be difficult to fully comprehend. So we'll need to study and wrestle with God's words—but it's worth it, and here are four reasons why:

Bible study illuminates our daily reading.

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 3:16-17)

Bible study works together with our daily time in Scripture.

Daily Bible reading maintains our connection with God through His written Word. It reminds us of His character, promises, our dependence on Him, and our future together. It familiarizes us with, and helps us grasp, the whole story of Scripture, and it keeps our souls energized.

But Bible *study* deepens and expands our understanding of specific Bible passages; it helps us sort through hard concepts and gives insight into the context of the Bible. Ideally, our times in deeper study will result in more fulfilling times of daily reading, as what we have gleaned through

in-depth study informs our regular time in the Word.

Bible study protects us from twisting the truth.

Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. (2 Peter 3:15b-16)

The Word of God is challenging, and because sin is a power at work against man, it is inevitable that people will twist the words of God for their own purposes. This sort of manipulation is confusing and distracting to those who do not regularly seek a fuller grasp of God's Word through study.

Bible study amplifies our service.

[Apollos] had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (Acts 18:25-26)

Bible study expands our ability to minister God's truth. Even those with a good grasp of Scripture, and who spread the gospel accurately and honestly, can enrich their testimony and comprehension through continued Biblical study and instruction. The pursuit of Jesus is a lifelong pursuit, as should be our endeavors to grasp His Word.

Bible study opens our understanding.

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
(Luke 24:27)

The Old Testament is rich with promises of Jesus and His work. The New Testament narrative stands on the testimony of the Old. A fuller study of both Testaments gives a greater knowledge of what Jesus fulfilled in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. It also gives hope and strength that Jesus will return to begin His eternal reign.

As the Holy Spirit does His work in us, we become more open to God's wisdom. The men on the road to Emmaus were familiar with Scripture and had even known Jesus before His crucifixion. But it wasn't until after Jesus' resurrection and His opening the Scriptures to them that they gained a deeper comprehension of Jesus and His work.

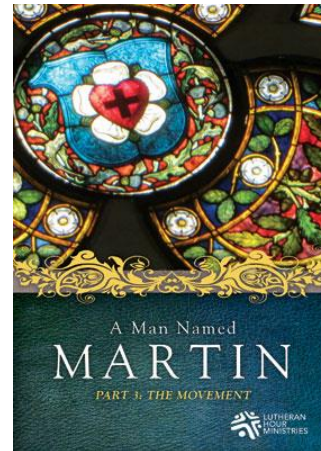
There may be work the Spirit needs to do in us before parts of God's Word open to us. A passage we've read multiple times, studied before, and thought we understood may suddenly take on new dimensions through the enlightening of the eyes of our hearts.

Taken from: <https://unlockingthebible.org/2017/08/whats-important-studying-bible/> Blog by Brad Archer August 7, 2017



GET INTO THE WORD!

BIBLE STUDIES



A MAN NAMED MARTIN-PART 3: THE MOVEMENT DVD

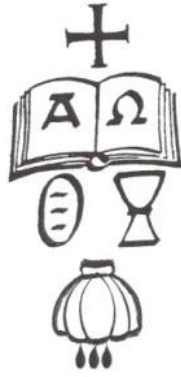
September 12, 19, 26

October 3, 10

Wednesday nights (5 sessions)

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The Reformation changed more than religion. From Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, God was at work in the Reformation. *In A Man Named Martin–Part 3: The Movement*, we will see how the Reformation transformed European society and, eventually, left a profound impression around the globe.



BASICS OF THE FAITH

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

Fall

September 23, 30

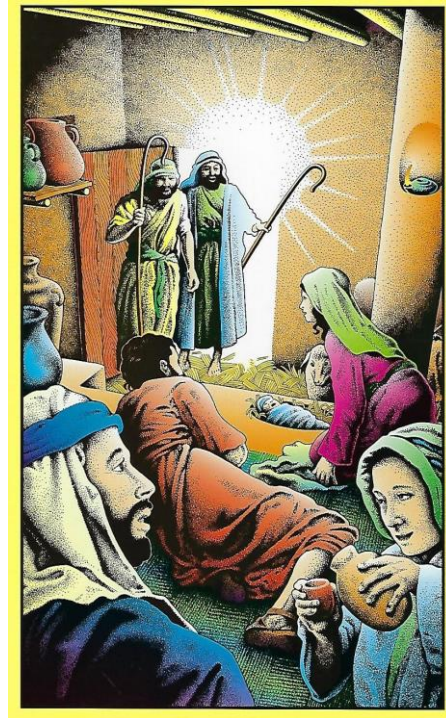
Sundays 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Winter

January 25, 26

Weekend Immersion

Fri. 7 – 9 pm; Sat. 9:30 – 3:30 pm



CHRISTMAS: THE REAL STORY

December 2-16

Sunday Morning (3 sessions)

9:30 am-10:15 am

For three Sundays this Advent season, we will look closely at the Christmas story as told in Scripture. Our study will be based on “Christmas: The Real Story.” The purpose of this study is to move past the traditional Christmas narrative and get to know the deeper significance that the birth of Jesus had for people in the 1st century and still has for us in the 21st century.

What happened to the Jewish people between the time of the exile and Jesus’ birth, and how does that affect our understanding of Jesus as the King of the Jews? What differences exist between the common Christmas story and the Biblical one? What were the implications of Jesus’

birth for the people of Israel? What are the implications of Jesus' birth for all of humanity? What are the implications for us personally?

By examining these questions, we will come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Jesus' birth and the events surrounding it. Join us this Advent season as we rejoice in the incarnation and the coming of God's kingdom on Earth.

- Happiness Is
- Happy Under Pressure
- Happy in Turmoil
- Happy Forever



CONNECTIONS SERIES: HAPPINESS

October 17, 24, November 7, 14
 Wednesday nights (4 sessions)
 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

This series of Bible studies will – by God's grace – build your relationship with God and with others, just as Jesus intended. You will learn that Jesus not only understands your feelings, He relates to them. He relates to you. And He has the answers you've been looking for. Make the connection today.

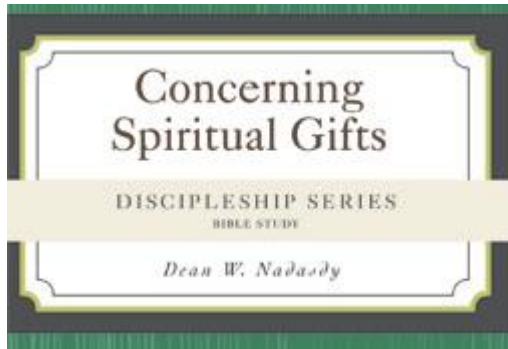


CONNECTIONS SERIES: WORRY

January 23, 30, February 6, 13
 Wednesday nights (4 sessions)
 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

This series of Bible studies will – by God's grace – build your relationship with God and with others ... all at the same time, just like Jesus intended. You'll learn that Jesus not only understands your feelings, He relates to them. He relates to you. And He has the answers you've been looking for. Make the connection today.

- Worry – What Is It
- What Am I Worried About
- A Worrier's Digest
- How Can I Handle My Worries

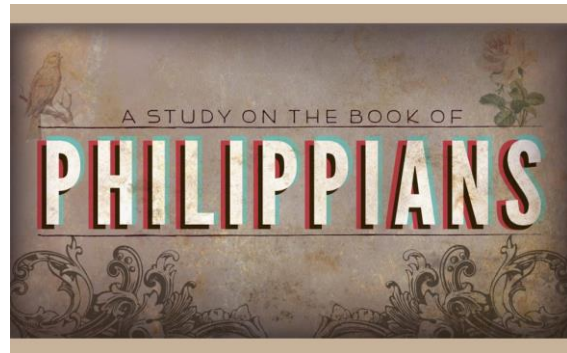


DISCIPLESHIP SERIES:
CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

November 28, December 5, 12, 19
January 9, 16
Wednesday nights (6 sessions)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

So 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. Many Christians shy away from the topic of spiritual gifts because of the supernatural qualities of some of the gifts listed in the New Testament. This course takes seriously what the Bible says and focuses on helping the reader who is looking for his/her niche in the church.



JOY IN CHRIST: A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

April 28-May 26
Sunday Morning (5 sessions)
9:30 am-10:15 am

The Epistle (Letter) to the Philippians is a missionary thank-you letter. In this study we will cover the paradox of human responsibility in view of God’s work in us and the paradox of joy during suffering. Additionally, we will see how Paul presented Jesus and himself as examples of living worthy of the Gospel. We will take Joy in Christ, because Christ is the secret to joy and contentment.

- April 28 Philippians 1:1-18a
- May 5 Philippians 1:18b-2:11
- May 12 Philippians 2:12-18
- May 19 Philippians 3:8-16
- May 26 Philippians 4:4-13



LUTHERAN SPIRITUALITY SERIES:
THE WORD

February 20, 27, March 13, 27
April 3, 24
Wednesday nights (6 sessions)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Do Lutheran Christians have a distinctive spirituality? Indeed they do! This adult Bible study explores the rich depths of a distinctively Lutheran spirituality that begins in Baptism and is founded upon God's Word.

Our God is a speaking God. Unlike idols made of mute stone or crafted by the imaginations of the faithless heart, the living God has a voice. He speaks and His words are "spirit and life" (John 6:63). This study is designed as a hearing aid; that is, its purpose is to assist you not only in understanding what God's Word is and how it functions, but also to sharpen your skills in listening to our Lord as He speaks in His Scriptures and in preaching that is governed by the Scriptures.



MISSIONARY REPORT: BRIAN GAUTHIER

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

Rev. Brian and Amanda Gauthier serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod (LCMS) as missionaries in Panamá. Brian coordinates all theological education in Panamá in conjunction with Luther Academy and Concordia Seminary & Mercy Center in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the seminary. Brian facilitates and mentors seminarians in their classes and fieldwork. He recruits and prepares young men for pastoral formation at the seminary as well. In addition, Brian preaches, teaches, and baptizes in the various congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Panamá (IELPA) and works with Panamanian pastors to plant new churches in the province of Colón.



MISSIONARY REPORT: GARY THIES

October 14
Sunday Morning
9:30 am-10:15 am

Gary W. Thies is a Mission Development Counselor with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Gary lives on a farm in western Iowa and is Director of Mission Central. He would love to share with you the news of what is really happening in LCMS missions through a presentation with pictures and artifacts direct from the mission field. He has visited 75 countries and continues to connect weekly with over 100 LCMS missionaries around the world.

The theme of the 2018-2019 Equipping Disciples book is ***“Rejoice!”*** and with this theme comes a new theme song by the same title, written by Dustin Kensrue. In this Bible study we will take time to go through the verses of this song and in doing so we’ll see in Philippians and other places that Paul calls us as Christians to rejoice. This song calls for us to rejoice in what God has done and who He is, and who we are in Him. Along with this, comes the idea of rejoicing through trials and suffering.



REJOICE! IN GOD’S PURPOSE

October 21 – November 18
Sunday Morning (5 sessions)
9:30 am-10:15 am

This study is a look at those basic truths of the Faith that built the solid, joyful Christianity of the first century--the kinds of truths that Paul covered in the opening chapters of Ephesians. The bottom-line truth is that life is not supposed to work without God at the center. This study will begin by looking at why it is important for us to see the invisible. Or, in other words, to see and understand how our spiritual blindness can lead us to harm. After that, each week will focus on the Grand Reality of God and how we can rejoice in it, experience it, and finally how we can display it in our daily walk of life.



REJOICE! A NEW SONG

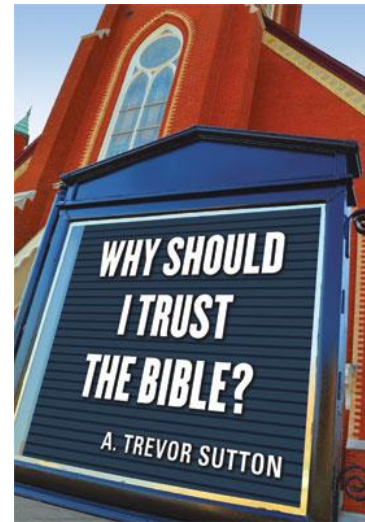
September 16 – October 7
Sunday Morning (4 sessions)
9:30 am-10:15 am



REJOICE! IN LENT

March 10-31; April 14
(5 sessions)
9:30 am-10:15 am

How do we *Rejoice! In Lent*? Many see Lent as a time for sorrow and suffering, a time to sacrifice our Joy to identify with Christ's suffering. Lent is not about our sacrifice; it is about God's sacrifice, God's sacrifice of His son so that we might be renewed. So, we can *Rejoice! In Lent*, because Lent is the season of the church year that emphasizes a renewal and a refreshing of our Christian life, a chance to cultivate godly habits—habits that fit the household of God, the family of our heavenly Father. It grows from Baptism, grounded in the gracious adoption that God bestows on us with water and the name of the blessed Trinity. These habits mark how we, as children of the heavenly Father, live in this world as we wait for our Lord's return.



WHY SHOULD I TRUST THE BIBLE?

January 6-March 3
Sunday Mornings (9 sessions)
9:30 am-10:15 am

You have got tough questions about the Bible. Maybe you've even heard things like, "The Bible is racist." Or, "The Bible has too many errors and edits." Or, "The Bible is merely a mythological story like Homer's *Odyssey*."

This book tackles accusations like those head-on. Pastor Sutton compares the Bible to writings that have been deemed more credible than the Bible, like the Book of Mormon, encyclopedias, and even Shakespeare's works. He tests the Bible using the same rigorous standards that have been used to test those other writings. He examines historical evidence, witness accounts, and translation concerns.

By the end, you'll be able to better defend your faith when its very foundation is attacked. You'll get many of your tough questions answered. And you'll see that when all other texts fall, the Bible still stands—as completely, undeniably trustworthy.

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 2, 2018 (Labor Day)
December 23, 2018 (Christmas Break)
December 30, 2018 (Christmas Break)
April 7, 2019 (Graduation Breakfast)
April 21, 2019 (Easter Sunday)
June 2, 2019 (Christ Cares Sunday)***

September 9

Brian Gauthier, Panama Missionary

September 16-October 7

Rejoice! A New Song

October 14

Gary Thies,
Mission Development Counselor

October 21-November 18

Rejoice! In God's Purpose

January 6-March 3

Why Should I Trust the Bible?

March 10-31, April 14

Rejoice! In Lent

April 28-May 26

Joy in Christ: A Study of Philipians

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 12-October 10

A Man Named Martin –
Part 3: The Movement
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

October 17, 24; November 7, 14

Connections Series: Happiness
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

November 28-December 19; January 9, 16

Discipleship Series:
Concerning Spiritual Gifts
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

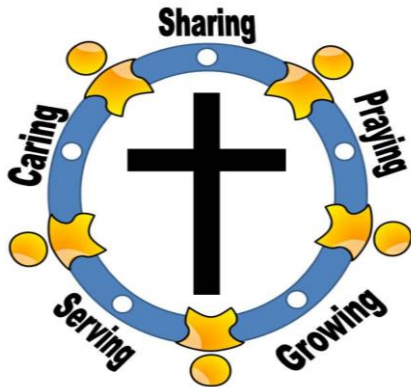
January 23-February 13

Connections Series: Worry
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

February 20, 27; March 13, 27; April 3, 24

Lutheran Spirituality Series: The Word
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 Holidá, church extension 35 or email at 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 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 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

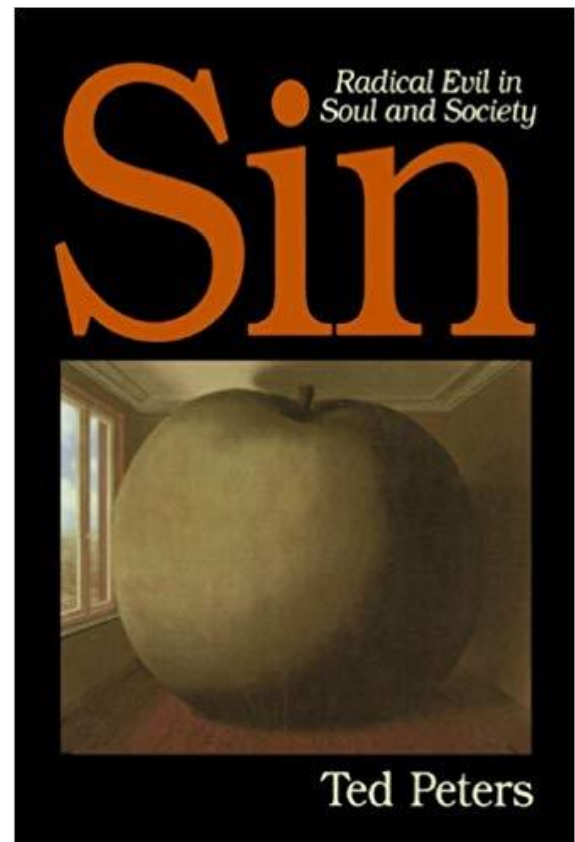
The word theology is derived from two Greek words: *Theos* (God) and *Logos* (work, speech, or reason). Therefore, theology in its simplest terms is rational discussion about God. It has been described as “the science of God and His relationship to man and the world” and “the attempt to reduce religious truth to an organized system.” In Theology 101 we take time to go into topics beyond the scope of Basics of the Faith to challenge your Christian understanding and by doing so, to strengthen your love and trust of Jesus, our Savior.

This year, as we learn to rejoice in the Lord in both good times and bad, we will take a look at the one thing that prevents us from rejoicing: our sin. We will be studying *Sin: Radical Evil in Soul and Society*, focusing on seven categories of sin Anxiety, Unfaith, Pride, Concupiscence, Self-Justification, Cruelty, and Blasphemy. Unlike the traditional seven deadly sins, in

this study we will see how each level of sin interrelates with our sinful condition and works to undermine our faith in Jesus.

For centuries the Christian church has rightly focused on the forgiveness and freedom from these sins that we have in Jesus, but Christendom does not often explore the doctrine of sin.

The Apostle Paul writes about a war with sin being waged within himself (Romans 7:21-23). Since we also exist at once as saints and sinners, that war wages within us too. In order to prepare us for that fight, we'll learn about the compulsions of sin, so that we can recognize temptations in ourselves and in the world, and turn to Jesus in our times of need, always rejoicing in His victory over sin, death, and the devil!



Date	Topic (7:00 – 9:00 pm)
September 20	Chapters 1 and 2 Introduction Step 1: Anxiety
October 18	Chapter 3 Step 2: Unfaith
November 15	Chapter 4 Step 3: Pride
December 20	Chapter 5 Step 4: Concupiscence
January 17	Chapter 6 Step 5: Self-Justification
February 28	Chapters 7 and 8 Step 6: Cruelty Step 7: Blasphemy
March 21	Chapter 9 Forgiveness



BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

EPHESIANS

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

*[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.

When we complete Ephesians, and we will this year, Philippians will be the next book we study.

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 LLL members 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 LLL supports is 511 Melrose, the meeting place for Iowa City Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

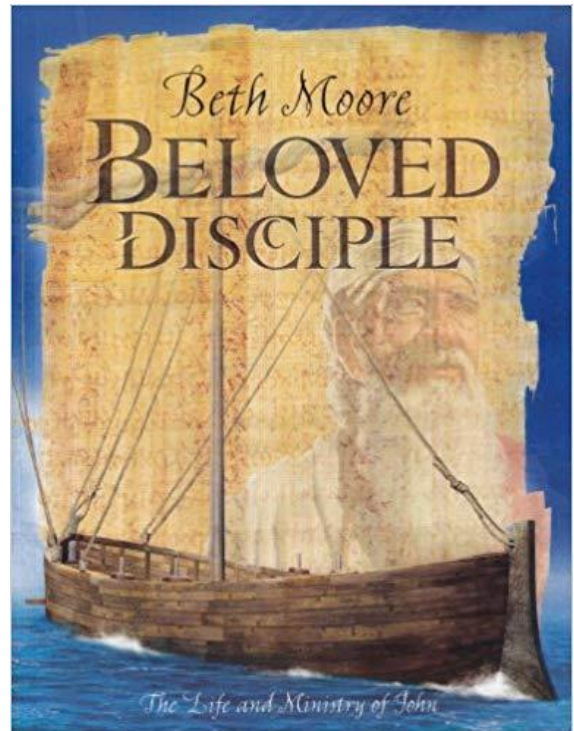
All men over age 18 are encouraged to join. Contact Jerry Sexton at 629-5422 for more information.



MEN AT THE CROSS

Women

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN



BELOVED DISCIPLE **By Beth Moore**

Beth Moore says "Every disciple and early follower of Christ left a legacy for future believers. John's legacy was love. Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the Giver can bless. This study is about finding our way to the heart of Jesus and reclining so closely that our pulse begins to throb in tandem, loving what He loves and hating what He hates."

Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John is an interactive study that includes personal daily assignments and weekly video-centered group sessions.

Tuesday Mornings 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Sept. 11, 25
Oct. 9, 23
Nov. 6, 27
Dec. 11
Jan. 8, 22
Feb 5, 19
Mar. 5, 26

Thursday Evenings 7:00 pm – 9: 00 pm

September 6, 20
October 4
November 1, 15, 29
December 13
January 10, 24
February 7, 21



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's Missionary League or Mission Guild typically meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the 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.

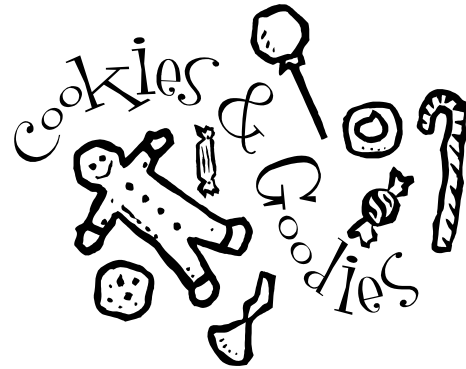
SUPPORTING MISSIONS

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 1, 2018



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.

2018-2019 LWML SCHEDULE

September 7, 8

Fall Retreat – Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

September 17 6:00 pm

Salad Potluck – IED Convention Report

Anna Otterman – Women in the LCMS

October 6 **Fall Zone Rally**
King of Kings, Cedar Rapids

October 7
LWML Sunday - *“Our Rest in A Changing World”* Psalm 62:1-8

Honey Sunday to support Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch

October 15 Lutheran World Relief
Packing 6:00pm
Lutheran Family Service
7:00 pm

October TBA **World Relief Pickup**

November 12 **Ruth Varney** 7:00 pm

December 1 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Christmas Cookie Walk
Chair: Brenda Johnson
Donna Saehler

December 3 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm

December 10 7:00 pm
LWML Christmas Party

December 12 5:10 pm
Advent Supper – Serving Committee

January 12 **WORKSHOP: Quilts, Kits, & Caboodles** 9:00am

February 18 7:00 pm

Bunco Night for Mites
Nominating Committee (V.P. & Treasurer)

March 18 7:00 pm

Vicar Otterman – Bible Study
Nominations for officers

March 20 5:10 pm

Lenten Supper – Serving Committee

April 6 **Tasting Bee** 11:00am

April TBA **Spring Zone Rally**

April 15
Amy Taylor - Mission Work in Kenya
LWR Kit Packing 6:00 pm
7:00 pm

April TBA
Spring World Relief Pickup

May 13 **Board Meeting** 6:45 pm
2019-2020 Calendar Planning

May 20 6:00 pm
Guild Night Out – Los Agaves

June 20-23
LWML National Convention, Mobile, Alabama
Theme – *“In Praise to the Lord”*
1 Chronicles 16:23-24a

July No meetings

August **Road Trip** –

September 16 6:00 pm

Salad Potluck
Report on National Convention
Camper Recipient Report



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 Donna Saehler at 319-321-3207.

Marriage



CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

February 15, 2019

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.

Young Adults

24 BELOW

24 Below is a young adult Bible study that started this year. Its focus is on applying God’s word to the lives of college students, and providing a place of fellowship for them during those early adult years. We meet about once a week during the summer, and every other week during the school year. We are also looking for ways to serve as volunteers and to outreach in our community.

It is not uncommon for young Christians to get swept up as they enter adulthood and lose touch with the Church as a result. I thank God for the opportunity to serve these young adults, and pray that we will all continue to grow in His Word.

-Josiah Coblentz 319-936-0563.

Youth

6th – 12th 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).

Parent Expectations:

- Attend worship service regularly with your child.
- Attend *Basics of the Faith* at least once while your child is in Confirmation Class.
- Attend *Parent/Teacher Conferences* with your child's Confirmation teacher (Pastor for 6th & 8th graders; Vicar for 7th graders).
- Help with service activities, such as Midweek Meal, fundraisers (annual Peach Sale, Pie Sale), retreats, and other youth activities.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

As part of Our Redeemer's dedication to equip our youth as disciples of Jesus and prepare them for full communing membership in the Lutheran Church-- Missouri Synod, Confirmation classes are held for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

These classes provide young people the opportunity to understand and grow in the teachings of Holy Scripture, thus building on the foundation given them in their Holy Baptism, preparing them for the Rite of Confirmation.

Confirmation Classes are...

- **Wednesday** nights during the school year from **6:45 pm – 8:00 pm**
- Alternating between *Lecture* and *Small Group*
- **Lecture nights:** Pastor instructs the 6th or 8th graders, and Vicar teaches the 7th graders.
- **Small Group nights:** Girls and boys are split into separate groups by grade and are led by a small group leader.

CONFIRMATION CURRICULUM:

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

Successful completion of confirmation instruction is an important milestone in a young person’s spiritual life and is just the **beginning** of his/her faith journey here at Our Redeemer.



CONFIRMATION YOUTH

6th – 8th graders

Weekly Activities

Sunday School – every Sunday at 9:15 am
 Confirmation Class – every Wednesday at 6:45 pm

2018-2019 CONFIRMATION EVENTS

- Sept 9 Rally Day 9:15 am
- Sept 12 Midweek Meal 6:00 pm
- Confirmation Classes start 6:45pm
- Sept 19 Confirmation Orientation w/Parents 6:45pm
- Sept 19 Picture Night during Confirmation Class
- Sept 21-22 6th Grade Fall Confirmation Retreat

- Oct 3 Midweek Meal
- Oct 14 Christmas Program auditions
 - Practice during Sunday School in October and November
- Oct 21 Trivia Challenge Confirmation Team
- Oct 26 LFS Speaker on Social Media
- Oct 26-27 7th & 8th Grades Fall Confirmation Retreat
- Oct 27-28 Youth Worship Weekend
- Nov 3 Gospel of Mark (*special event*)
- Nov 7 Midweek Meal
- Nov 10 Pie Making Fundraiser 8am-12pm
- Nov 28 8th Grade Parent Meeting (*during Confirmation class*)
- Dec 8 Christmas Program Rehearsal
- Dec 15 Christmas Program Rehearsal
- Dec 16 Christmas Program
- Dec 19 Youth Advent Meal *hosted by Confirmation families*
- Dec 25 CHRISTMAS
- Jan 9 Midweek Meal
- Jan 21 Ski Trip
- Feb 1-2 Confirmation Winter Retreat
- Feb 6 Midweek Meal
- Feb 10 Trivia Challenge Confirmation Team
- Mar 6 Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- Mar 20 Spring Break – Worship at 6:10 pm
- Mar 29-31 Confirmation Spring Retreat to Chicago
- April 7 Graduation Breakfast *hosted by 9th – 11th grade families*
- April 10 Spiritual Growth Event
- April 14 Palm Sunday / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
- April 21 EASTER SUNDAY / Easter Breakfast
- May 1 Midweek Celebration
- May 5 Sunday School Sunday
- June/July
 - Peach Sale fundraiser
 - Christ Cares Sunday (June 3)
 - Summer Youth Events
 - 4th of July Parade
 - VBS

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

9th – 12th graders

Weekly Activities

Sunday School – every Sunday at 9:15 am

Midweek – every Wednesday at 6:45 pm

2017-18 HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

Sept 9	Rally Day	9:15 am
Sept 12	Midweek Meal	6:00 pm
	Midweek classes start	6:45pm
Sept 19	Picture Night during Midweek class	
Oct 1	DUE: NYG REGISTRATION FORMS	
Oct 3	Midweek Meal	
	Youth Worship 1 st Rehearsal	
Oct 14	Youth Worship Rehearsal w/Lunch Hayride & Cookout @ Farm	
Oct 17	Youth Worship Rehearsal	
Oct 21	Trivia Challenge High School Team Youth Worship Rehearsal	
Oct 24	Youth Worship Rehearsal	
Oct 27-28	YOUTH WORSHIP WEEKEND	
Oct. 27	Youth Worship Rehearsal	3:00 pm
	Youth Worship Service	5:30 pm
	Dinner at Wendy's following service	
Oct 28	Youth Worship Service	8:00 am
	Youth Worship Service	10:30 am
Nov 7	Midweek Meal	
Nov 10	Pie Making Fundraiser	8am-12pm
Nov 28	Set up for Cookie Walk	
Dec 16	Live Nativity & Christmas Party	
Dec 19	Jesus' Birthday Party w/Kids Club	
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS	
Jan 9	Midweek Meal	
Jan 21	Ski Trip	
Jan 23	College Care Packages w/Kids Club	
Feb ?	DUE: UKANDU REGISTRATION FORMS	
Feb 3	Super Bowl Party	
Feb 6	Midweek Meal	
Feb 10	Trivia Challenge High School Team	

Mar 6 Ash Wednesday Worship Service
 Mar 13 Card Night, make cards for confirmands
 March 20 Spring Break – Worship at 6:10 pm

April 3 Youth Lenten Meal *hosted by High School families*
 April 7 Graduation Breakfast *hosted by 9th – 11th grade families*
 April 10 Spiritual Growth Event *High Schoolers present gifts to 8th grade confirmands*
 April 14 Palm Sunday / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
 April 17 Prayer Walk and Clean Up
 April 20 Set Up for Easter Breakfast *High School Families*
 April 21 EASTER SUNDAY / Easter Breakfast *High School Families host*
 May 1 Midweek Celebration
 May 5 Sunday School Sunday

June/July

Peach Sale fundraiser
 Christ Cares Sunday (June 3)
 Summer Youth Events
 UKANDU – *Summer Servant Event*
 4th of July Parade
 National Youth Gathering (*held every three years, next one is July 9-16, 2019!*)
 VBS

MIDWEEK

High School Youth meet in the **youth room** from 6:45 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year.

Midweek is about building a faith community through...

- Christ-centered **Bible Studies**
- engaging **service projects**
- interactive **fellowship activities**

Always focused on Jesus Christ our Savior!
Friends are always welcome!

LIVE NATIVITY

Our Redeemer is sometimes known as “the church with the real animals at Christmas,” because each December the High School youth host the Live Nativity.

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!

All High School youth are needed to host this event to the community.

The Live Nativity will be on **Sunday, December 16th**.



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 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 2019 will be announced later. Usually, UKANDU is held the last full week of 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 (6th – 12th 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.

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
\$210/Month

Tuesday/Thursday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$154/Month

5 Days

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$348/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 or our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Marnie Schrader.

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



Every Wednesday evening during Kids Club programs, the children learn Bible stories and verses, sing songs, play games, and participate in craft and mission projects. 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

Shirts are 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 for more information.

BIBLE / PENCIL

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will provide all students with a Bible if needed. Students in 3rd through 5th grades are expected to bring their 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

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)

MEMORY ASSIGNMENTS	
Toddlin'	Jesus Loves Me & Hippo Song
3 years	Exodus 3:12
4 years	Exodus 3:12
Kindergarten	Psalm 119:105
1 st Grade	John 3:16
2 nd Grade	John 3:16
3 rd Grade	The Lord's Prayer
4 th Grade	The Lord's Prayer
5 th Grade	Books of the Bible (Old & New Testament)
6/7/8 th Grade	The Apostles' Creed & The Ten Commandments
High School	Proverbs 3:5-6 & Psalm 23

CALENDAR

CLASSES BEGIN: Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, promptly at 6:45 pm for the Kid's Club Orientation. Each week we will begin our opening in the Sanctuary promptly at 6:45. We have many important things to cover, and ask that students arrive early each week.

Kids Club Sunday is February 24, 2019.

MIDWEEK CELEBRATION: The finale for the Midweek year will be Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

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 cancelled on that day. Stay tuned to Channel 9 KCRG for last minute weather-related cancellations.

SNACKS

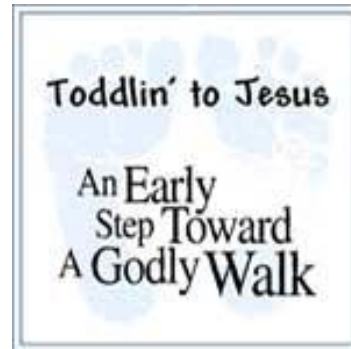
Our snacks are through donations. Our snack coordinator will place a sign-up sheet at our Kids Club Orientation and will be contacting parents throughout the year to request donations.

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. Snacks may be brought for your child's birthday. You may contact the snack coordinator to arrange this or the snack coordinator may contact you.

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

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



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 3-years through 8th grade attend classes to help them "Grow in Christ". The 3-year-olds through 3rd grade meet in the music room at 9:15 am for Opening and then are excused to go to their classrooms at 9:30 am. The 4th through 8th 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 memory work. The 4th grade through 8th 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 Marnie Schrader at 319-530-1563 or 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 that follows.)

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:

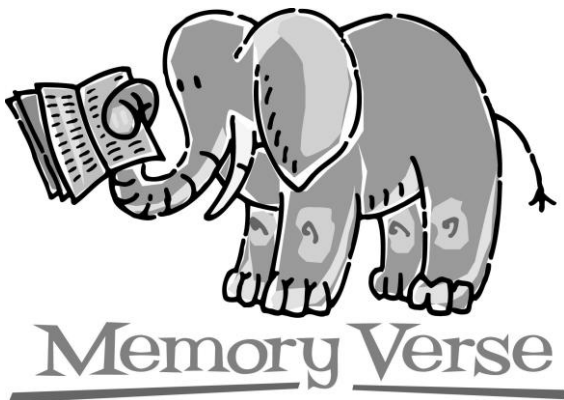
1. Are carefully chosen on the basis of their meaning and value for living and sharing the Christian faith.
2. Correlate with the student's moral and spiritual development, and are adapted to meet differences in memorizing ability.
3. Are taught meaningfully and enjoyably.

- Are meaningfully applied to the life of the student.

On Sunday School Sunday, May 5, 2019, the following classes will be reciting the following Memory Assignments to the congregation:

MEMORY ASSIGNMENTS	
Toddlin	Jesus Loves Me & Hippo Song
3 years	Exodus 3:12
4 years	Exodus 3:12
Kindergarten	Psalm 119:105
1 st Grade	John 3:16
2 nd Grade	John 3:16
3 rd Grade	The Lord's Prayer
4 th Grade	The Lord's Prayer
5 th Grade	Books of the Bible (Old & New Testament)
6/7/8 th Grade	The Apostle's Creed & The Ten Commandments
High School	Proverbs 3:5-6 & Psalm 23

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



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 52 of this Equipping Booklet.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & LUNCH



Children age 4 through 8th grade are invited to participate in our annual Children's Christmas Program. This program, held on Sunday, December 16, 2018, 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 3-year-old Sunday School class, Preschool A and Preschool B, 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.

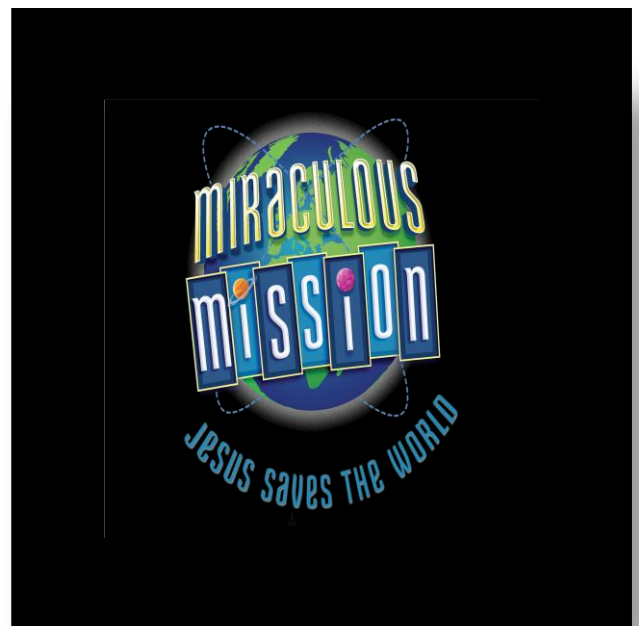
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 4-8, 2019

Children age 4 years through 8th grade enjoy a fantastic week here at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 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 evenings 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.

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.” Name tags for every member are in the drawers of the Welcome Center in the narthex. We ask that EVERY MEMBER wear his/her name tag, whether you are a new member or a charter member. This is one way we continue to get to know one another. And when someone says “Good Morning...” and uses your name, there is power.

OPEN ARMS

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

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

MEMBER NEWS BULLETIN BOARD

Located in the upstairs hallway to the education classrooms, next to 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

March 10, 2019

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.

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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This committee works closely with the Children's Ministry Coordinator overseeing all of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's educational ministries. These ministries include Sunday School, Kids Club, and Vacation Bible School. 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 4, 2018

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.

CRISIS CENTER SPREAD THE LOVE CAMPAIGN

February is the Crisis Center *Spread the Love Campaign* peanut butter and jelly drive. Notices are put in **Reflections** and signs are posted. The peanut butter and jelly that are collected during the month of February are delivered to the Crisis Center in early March.

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 Dean Hargens at 337-4635.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

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.

Members with health concerns who would like a visit should contact Erica Davisson at #319-541-7242 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 Mission Committee's focus is emphasizing our Lord's Great Commission:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... (Matthew 28:19a)



We help support missionaries and mission trips, both domestic and international. This help can be in the form of prayer support, financial support and/or physical support.

In past years, the Mission Committee organized short term mission trips to domestic and international locations. In the future, the Mission Committee's efforts will be directed toward one international location, a location and missionary known to Our Redeemer and directly supported by the congregation.

The Mission Committee also organizes a Pancake Day fundraiser each Spring to support a local organization. In recent years, the funds raised have helped the Johnson County Crisis Center.

The Mission Committee is always open to new members, but it should be noted that committee membership is not required to participate in any Mission Committee activity such as a short term mission trip, pancake day, etc.

CONTACT

For more information about the Mission Committee, contact Bob Powers at 338-9651.

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 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 20th 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 hallway opposite the nursery.

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.

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 provides Christian resources to the members of Our Redeemer. The goal is to furnish a balance of materials and subjects for all ages. These collections become available through donations, along with monetary funding. New purchases are carefully selected by the church librarians and the Pastor. Part of the library materials for adult studies are located in room 208-210. The main library holds books of many subjects, including Christian fiction, nonfiction, children and juniors. Family videos are also available. A card system has been established for checking out materials. The check out and return rules can be found at the library desk area.

To donate materials, or if you have any questions, please contact:

Kelli Kucera 512-6789

Shana Stuart ~337-9465

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. 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:

REJOICE

WITH



Rejoice with Generosity (Stewardship Sermon Series)

Our stewardship sermon series, which will take place this Fall, continues the *Rejoice!* theme by teaching how we should rejoice in the Lord through our giving. The sermon series is centered on the fact that God has set the example of generosity through His Son, Jesus, who lowered Himself, taking on human form and giving His life for our sakes. As Christians we are called to live in Jesus, which means living generously and using the talents, time, and finances that God gave us to serve the church and the world. In giving to the people around us, we learn to practice the same kind of love that Jesus had for us, focusing our lives around His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life and rejoicing in His blessings by blessing others.

September 16
October 21
November 18



Christ Is (Advent Sermon Series)

This Advent we will experience a three-week sermon series on Wednesday nights focusing on the truth that Christ is our hope, our joy, and our peace. The first week will explore how Christ is the source of hope for God's people, stretching all the way back to Adam and Eve and continuing for all people today. Next, going along with our *Rejoice!* theme, we will discover how Christ is our source of joy, even in times of trial, because He is God's Son who came to live with us, forgive us, and save us. Finally, our last sermon in the series will examine how Christ is our peace, which was bought at a hefty price but is given to us for free! Join us for our midweek Advent services and hear the message of hope, joy, and peace proclaimed for you.

December 5, 2018 Week 1

Christ is the hope for God's people

December 12, 2018 Week 2

Christ is our source of joy

December 19, 2018 Week 3

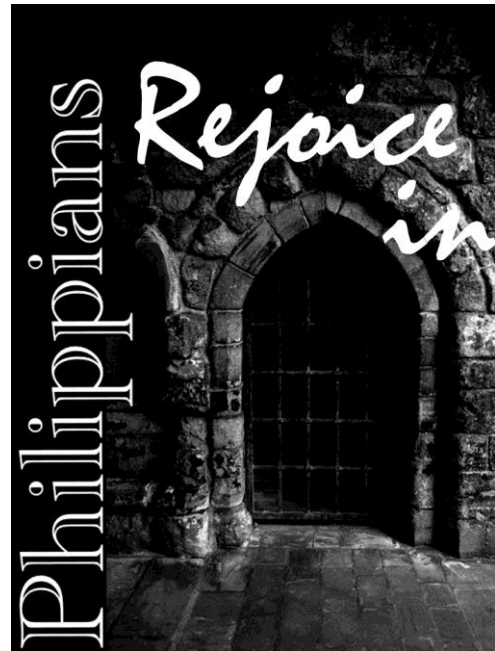
Christ is our peace



Rejoice! I tell You the Truth (Lenten Sermon Series)

Our sermon series for the Sundays in Lent will focus on the theme of *Rejoice! I Tell You the Truth*. Taking us from Ash Wednesday through Easter, this series will explore many truth statements about the reality of our sin and the reality of Jesus' loving and gracious work in our lives. We existed as sinners and continue to fail God over and over again, but Jesus does not fail us. He carries us into lives of faith, making us a part of God's family, giving forgiveness and access to God through prayer. As members of His church, we are joined with Christ, and He prepares us through Word and Sacrament to endure the trials of this world, dying with Him so that we can live new and holy lives. This Lent, we will hear how Jesus carries us through death itself into a new era where we will rejoice forever in His mighty work and good gifts.

March 10 - April 21



Joy in Christ (Philippians Sermon Series)

After Easter our sermon series on Paul's letter to the Philippians will match the Sunday morning Bible study, based on the same epistle. Philippians is a letter full of rejoicing. Paul rejoices in the faithfulness of the church of Philippi, he rejoices at the advance of the Gospel throughout the world, and he rejoices as his fellow Christians share in his struggle to go out and do good work in the world. The letter is centered on God's provisions for us and how we then take those gifts and use them to continue Jesus' work today in the world and among our fellow Christians, united as brothers and sisters in God's family. Come and join us Sunday mornings in the season of Easter as we delve deep into this portion of scripture in both preaching and study.

April 28 - May 26

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 three 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 5, 2018
Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Lenten Dinners

Wednesday, March 13, 2019
Wednesday, March 20, 2019
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Wednesday, April 3, 2019
Wednesday, April 10, 2019

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 on the Wednesday 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 5, 2018, 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. Take one during the service and return it back to the "trees" at the close.

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 Gathering Place.

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 enhances 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.

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.

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.



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

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.

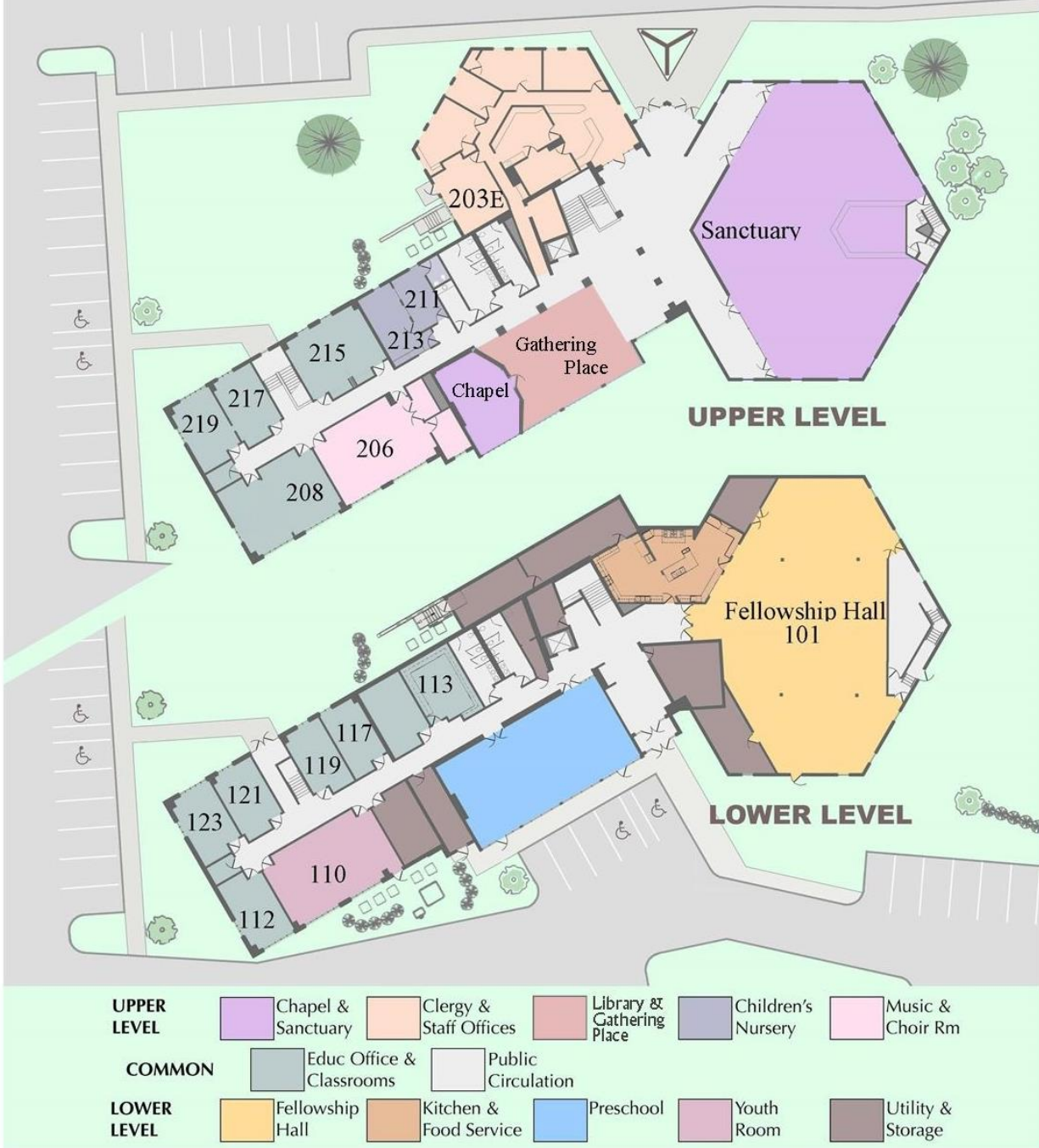
An up-to-date 2018-2019 Calendar

Available at www.ourredeemer.org

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

The Google Calendar can be linked to your Google calendar – contact Kevin Sellers technology@ourredeemer.org

Directory



Sunday Morning Openings

Age/Grade	Room Number
4 year olds through 4 th 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 st /2 nd Grade	119-Classroom
3 rd Grade	121-Classroom
4 th Grade	123-Classroom
5 th Grade	112-Classroom
6 th /7 th /8 th Grade	208-Classroom
High School	110-Classroom
Adult	101-Fellowship Hall

Sunday Morning Closings

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

Wednesday Night Openings

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

Wednesday Night Classrooms:

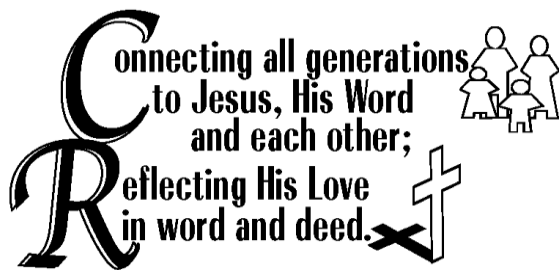
Age/Grade	Room Number
4 years – Kindergarten – Little Lambs	215-Classroom
1 st – 2 nd Grade - CrossTown	219-Classroom
3 th - 4 th – 5 th Grade- Faith Explorers	121-Classroom
6 th Grade Small Group, Girls 8 th Grade Small Group, Girls	117-Classroom
6 th Grade Small Group, Boys 8 th Grade Small Group, Boys	119-Classroom
7 th Grade Small Group, Boys	113-Education Office
7 th Grade Lecture 7 th Grade Small Group, Girls	123-Classroom
6 th Grade Lecture 8 th Grade Lecture	112-Classroom
High School	110-Classroom
Adult	208/210-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

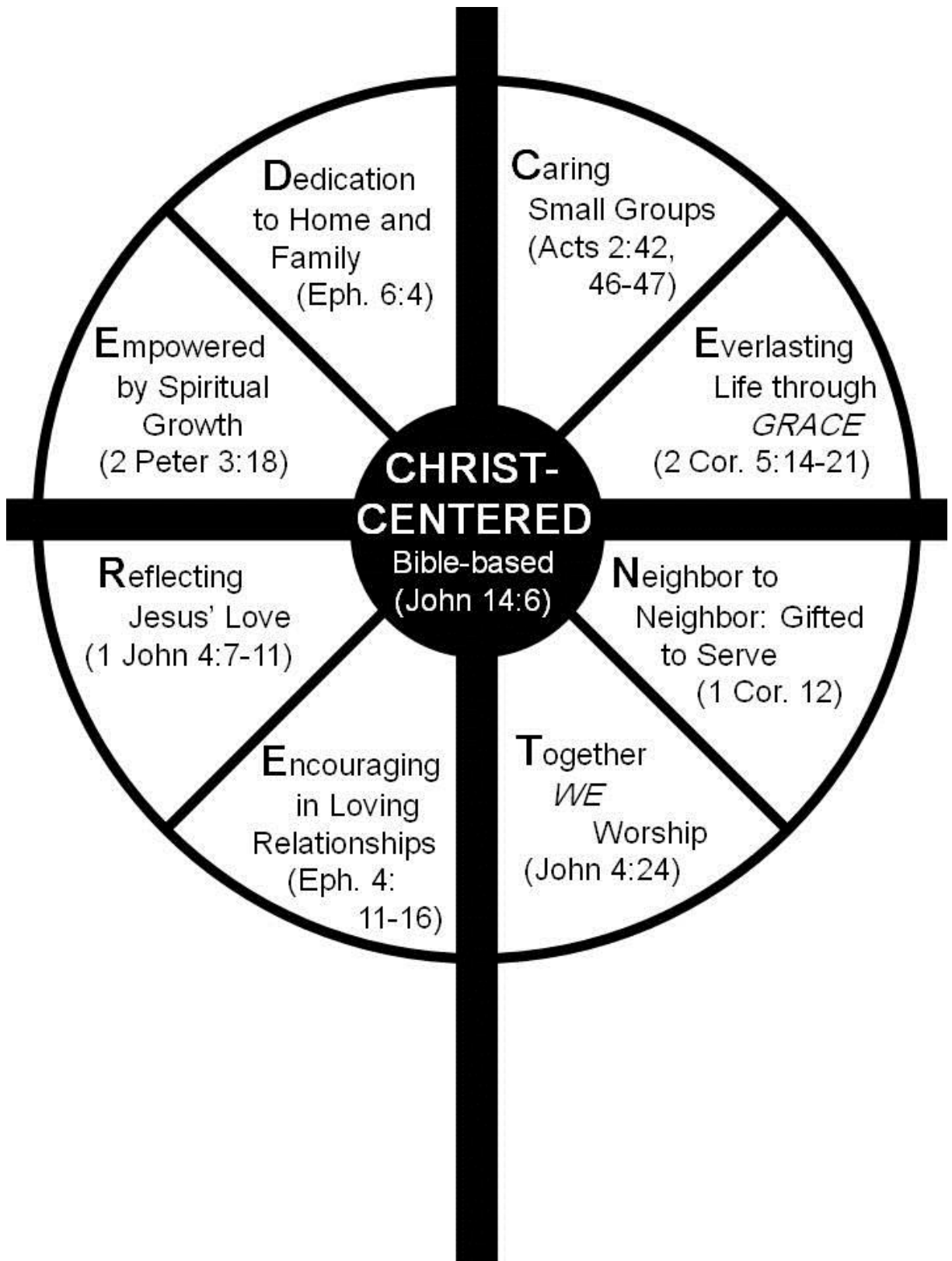
We believe that all of us—individually and corporately—are to reflect Jesus' unconditional love in word and deed, living the Christian life as followers (disciples) of Christ. (1 John 4:7-11)

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). Our worship of God is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets as components of the Divine Service liturgy connecting us with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. Word and Sacrament 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