

Enduring Mission:

Here I Am



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

**EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
2020-2021**

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Vaughn Davisson
Jim Eick
Ryan Haack
Eric Kooker
Chad Pence
Art Schwarting
Arlan Thompson



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.

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

Contents

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| Our Redeemer Staff | 2 | Sunday School | 33 |
| Elders | 2 | Children's Christmas Program & Lunch | 35 |
| Enduring Mission: Here I Am Intro | 4 | Vacation Bible School | 35 |
| Stephen Ministry | 5 | Service Connections: | 36 |
| Events | 6 | Assimilation | 36 |
| Christmas & Cookies | 6 | Children's Ministry | 36 |
| MidWeek Events | 6 | Health Ministries | 37 |
| Pancake Day | 7 | Human Care | 37 |
| Parade Party | 7 | Mission | 38 |
| Trivia Challenge | 7 | Outreach | 39 |
| Trunk-or-Treat | 8 | Properties | 39 |
| Adult | 9 | Administrative Connections: | 40 |
| Importance of Bible Study | 9 | Beacon | 40 |
| Bible Studies | 9 | Card Shop | 40 |
| Sunday Morning | 17 | Communication Cabinets | 40 |
| Wednesday Morning | 17 | Communication Racks | 40 |
| Wednesday Evening | 17 | Devotions | 40 |
| Small Group Ministry | 18 | Library | 40 |
| Comfort-Tiers | 19 | Reflections | 41 |
| Lunch Bunch | 19 | Theme Song | 41 |
| Christ in Film | 20 | Worship Connections: | 42 |
| Men | 21 | Embracing the Great Commission | 42 |
| Bible Study For Men | 21 | (Stewardship Series) | 42 |
| Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) | 21 | The Enduring Mission of Our Father | 42 |
| Women | 22 | (Advent Sermon Series) | 42 |
| Bible Study For Women | 22 | Enduring Mission: The Gospel in Seven | 43 |
| Women's Mission Guild (LWML) | 23 | Words (Lenten Sermon Series) | 43 |
| Youth | 26 | Advent and Lenten Suppers | 44 |
| Parents of Youth | 26 | Lenten Prayer Walk | 44 |
| Confirmation Classes | 26 | Acolytes | 44 |
| Confirmation Retreats | 27 | Adult Choir | 44 |
| Confirmation Youth | 27 | Baptism | 45 |
| High School Youth | 27 | Children's Worship Support | 45 |
| High School Youth | 27 | Fellowship Time | 45 |
| Midweek | 28 | Greeters | 45 |
| Live Nativity | 28 | Handbell Choir | 45 |
| Summer Servant Event - UKANDU | 28 | Nursery | 45 |
| LCMS Youth Gathering (NYG) | 29 | Organ and Piano | 46 |
| Fundraising and Prize Accounts | 29 | Praise Team | 46 |
| Children | 30 | Prayer Chain | 46 |
| Cradle Roll | 30 | Special Music | 46 |
| Our Redeemer Preschool | 31 | Technology Assistants | 47 |
| Kids Club | 32 | Ushers | 47 |
| Toddlin' to Jesus | 33 | Youth Choir | 47 |
| | | Worship Services | 52 |

ENDURING MISSION: †

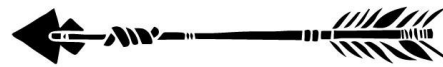
HERE I AM

When most people think of missions, they think of a trip, going somewhere and serving for a few days. We do not often consider the full scope of missions—missions far, missions near, missions right in front of us here!

We are in mission daily; mission to our neighbors, coworkers, strangers, family members and even one another. Any relationship developed over time where the love of God reigns is Mission Ministry. While the idea of Mission Ministry may seem like a new or foreign concept, we are familiar with Mission Ministry.

Better yet, every minute of every day, we are receiving the care of Mission Ministry. We are the first recipients of God's Mission Ministry! His Mission started the minute Satan deceived Adam and Eve and finished when Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected. Now, Mission Ministry is still in progress. God is using the Church to bring His Mission to the world!

Truly, we both receive and give in Mission Ministry. This year at Our Redeemer, our theme is **Enduring Mission**. Through Bible studies and sermon series, we will explore God's desire for His people to serve one another, love one another, and proclaim the glorious deeds of Him who first loved us. May this year be an encouragement to not grow weary in doing the good works of God for our neighbors, coworkers, family members, and dear brothers and sisters in Christ. May the love of God reign and be developed throughout this **Enduring Mission**.



Here I am
Lord
send Me

> Isaiah 6:8 <



As with many things in these days of COVID, some activities and worship times may change.

Make sure the office 319-338-5626 or redeemer@ourredeemer.org has your email to receive updates and watch the website for changes.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



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 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 Ministry 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 |

Events



CHRISTMAS & COOKIES

Sunday, December 6, 2020
Following 10:30 am Worship

Members of Our Redeemer gather for food, fun, and fellowship. Whether it is appetizers, pizza, or potluck, this group will dine together. We will decorate a plate of cookies to take home and one to share. All supplies are provided. It is a fun time for fellowship during the season of Christ's birth.

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 pm | Meal on select evenings |
| 6:45 pm | Little Lambs (2 yrs-K) |
| | CrossTown (Grades 1-2) |
| | Faith Explorers (Grades 3-5) |
| | Confirmation Classes (6-8) |
| | High School |
| | Adult Choir |
| 7:00 pm | Adult Classes |
| 8:00 pm | 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 16, 2020

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Wednesday, February 3, 2021



PANCAKE DAY



Saturday, March 6, 2021

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 CommUnity (previously known as Johnson County Crisis Center). Come help to make, serve, and clean-up. At least come to eat. Yum!

PARADE PARTY

Due to COVID-19, there will be no Parade Party in 2020.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE



CHALLENGE

November 22, 2020, & February 28, 2021
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 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?

Due to COVID-19, food will *not* be shared potluck style as in years past. Tables may bring their own hors d'oeuvres that can be snacked on 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 25, 2020

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

What is 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.

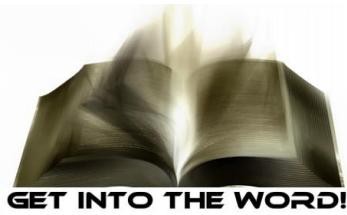


*Here I Am,
Send Me.*

1. Register children to be Trick-or-Treaters
2. Register your car, mini-van, or truck to give out goodies. Vehicles should be decorated with a unique theme. Make sure you bring enough candy or treats for everyone.
3. You do not need to have children to register your vehicle.
4. Register if you can bring something to share.

Watch *Reflections* registration information.

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

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

The Third Commandment tells us that we should “Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.”

We Lutherans understand commandment that to mean more than just ‘going to church on Sundays.’ Instead, we are to love God and His Word, and gladly hear and learn it!

That means Bible Study is an important component of Christian life! Because the Bible *is* God’s Word, it can be trusted as a sort of ‘measuring stick’ and ‘guide’ for Christian life. As the Psalmist writes in Psalm 119:105:

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.”*

And as St. Paul kindly reminds all of us Christians in 2 Timothy 3:16:

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable for teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and for training in
righteousness.”*

Studying the Bible helps us to live God-pleasing lives. But more than that, it helps us obtain a closer relationship with God. As we learn more about what God has done for us, we see more clearly what He desires for us. So come, be enriched by God’s Word for you and spend time in Bible Study!

BIBLE STUDIES**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE TODAY: PRAYER**

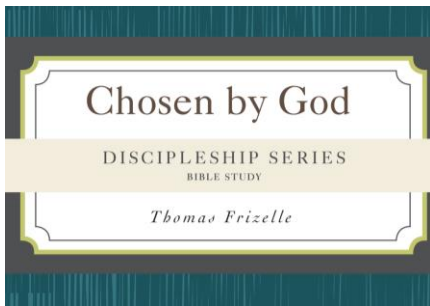
**September 23 - November 18,
December 2, 9
Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

The Christian Life Today Bible study series explores contemporary adult issues. This series includes 12 sessions that address topics relating to the study's theme. This series will give Christians the opportunity to receive information about key concerns and issues, seek insights from God's Word, and discuss with other Christians how to apply the truth found in the Scriptures to their lives.

Session topics are:

- What is Prayer?
- What is an Acceptable Prayer?
- What Attitude Should I Have in Prayer?
- Will God Answer Me?
- When and Where Should I Pray?
- Where Can I Find Help in My Prayer Life?
- For What Should I Pray? God's Glory!
- For What Should I Pray? God's Goodness!
- For What Should I Pray? God's Grace!
- For What Should I Pray? God's Guardianship!
- What Does it Mean to Intercede in Prayer?
- What Will My Prayers of Praise Look Like?

DISCIPLESHIP SERIES: CHOSEN BY GOD



April 7 - 28
Wednesday Nights (4 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 series was not designed to be a how-to course on specific tasks in the Church. It's not a manual for training lay leaders to do “church work.” It's not a practical handbook that can teach you church administration. Rather, 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.

Who are the elect? This study will discuss the biblical mystery of election and encourages readers to anticipate the joys of heaven.

EVERYONE HIS WITNESS: LASSIE



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study
9:30 am – 10:15 pm

Every One His Witness seeks to motivate believers to be active witnesses of the Gospel in their communities. Through real-world context and practical application, Lutherans can be equipped to share the Good News with those they meet who are of differing religions and worldviews.

LASSIE is an acronym for an approach to witnessing to people in our everyday lives; the letters stand for Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, and Encourage. It is relational in that it focuses on us speaking of Jesus with the people whom God has placed into relationships with us (or will one day place into relationship with us). It is contextual in that it provides a flexible and adaptable framework that can be used in a wide variety of witnessing situations from ongoing relationships with family members to one-time encounters with people in the course of our lives.

October 18

LISTEN: *Be quick to listen*

Listening provides several benefits to the one listening. In the first place, listening enables us to obtain information about a person from an authoritative source—the person! If you want to get to know a person, listen to the person. There is an adage that goes, “You aren’t learning anything when you’re talking.” It is amazing what we learn when we listen!

October 25

ASK: *Ask questions to listen more*

Asking good questions is a powerful way to learn more about a person’s worldview, spiritual perspectives, knowledge of God’s Word, concerns about life, and a host of other topics. When it comes to learning more about a person, questions are always more effective than statements.

November 1

SEEK: *Seek a connection to Jesus’ story*

The seeking in this approach is not done by the non-churched person; it is the seeking that a witness undertakes as one looks for an effective way in which to speak of Jesus to a non-churched person. We have opportunities in our everyday lives to connect with people we know. Seeking a point of connection opens the way for us to share the message of God who loves us.

November 8

SHARE: *Share God’s Word: The only thing that can change people’s hearts*

We have something to share with people that they desperately need, whether they know it or not. As we Listen, Ask, and Seek; what they have tried to fill their life with, in place of Jesus, should be apparent. Whatever that may be, it cannot compare

to the love, mercy, and grace that the Lord wants them to know and enjoy.

November 15

INVITE: *Keep the conversation about Jesus going*

Inviting is intended to keep the conversation going so the person has more exposure to God’s Word. This means that there is no standard invitation. Instead, invitations need to be crafted for an individual person in his or her own circumstance.

November 22

ENCOURAGE: *Follow up and follow through*

People want to be encouraged. Actually, they need to be encouraged. Most people are already exposed to and dealing with enough that is negative. Someone who offers encouragement is refreshing and renewing. When you take the initiative to be encouraging, you will gain and keep people’s attention and interest.

HERE I AM

**HERE I AM!
STATEMENTS**

The Lord is constantly calling to His people. Through the word God calls to us today. As we study the Word of God, we will be focusing on the response to this call that six men gave to God. For many and various reasons, God called out to them to deliver His messages to the people and their response was the same:

Here I am!

December 6

Abraham

Genesis 22:1-11

Jacob

Genesis 31:11, 46:2

December 13

Moses

Exodus 3:4

Samuel

1 Samuel 3:4

December 20

Ananias

Acts 9:10

Isaiah

Isaiah 6:8

HERE I AM: PROPHETS



HERE I AM! PROPHETS

God has always been a God who speaks to His people. Today He speaks through His Son, Jesus Christ; before He spoke through His prophets. As God sought people who sinned against Him and went after other gods, He called for people to serve as His prophets and bring His mission. Though the message was different for each prophet, they all joined in the Enduring Mission of God. Join us as we study the Prophets who answered the call of God.

January 10

ISAIAH: A Holy Call

Isaiah 6, 1 Peter 1

“Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips!” is the call from Isaiah as he stood in the temple of God. Seeing the Lord, Isaiah knew that his sin would be laid bare. However, not only did he not face destruction, he was cleansed. His sin was atoned for. Therefore, when asked “Whom

shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah took up the Enduring Mission of God. “Here I am!” Join us as we study the Prophet Isaiah’s response to a Holy Call.

January 17

ELIJAH: Listening to the Voice

1 Kings 18-19

After the prophets of Baal were defeated in what is one of the most famous confrontations between a prophet of the Lord and the followers of a false god, Jezebel threatens Elijah and forces him to flee for his life. “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers,” are the words of Elijah in the wilderness. Join us as we study the way God chooses to speak to His servant, the way in which He encourages Elijah to continue in His Enduring Mission.

January 24

JEREMIAH: Helpless Man, Hopeful Plan

Jeremiah 29, Romans 8:18-30

As the people of God are being taken out of Jerusalem and into exile, life seemed hopeless. But, in the midst of their pain and uncertainty, the Lord has a plan. “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Join us as we study the weeping prophet who carried on God’s Enduring Mission so that we may learn and be encouraged to know that for those who love God all things work together for good.

January 31

HOSEA: *Even When it's Tough*

Hosea 1, 3, 14

In the world we live, times get tough. Many of the prophets understood this, but Hosea understood this in a real and practical way. From the opening of the book of Hosea, God commanded him to take a wife of whoredom, because Israel had committed whoredom by forsaking the Lord. Even when it is tough, Hosea did not waver from the Enduring Mission of God. Join us as we study the book of Hosea and understand how the prophet followed the Lord even when life is tough.

February 7

AMOS: *Prophet for Everyman*

Amos 1

Not everyone could be a prophet, but a prophet could come from anywhere. Amos was called out from among the shepherds of Tekoa. Amos didn't have formal training; he was a shepherd at work when God called him to participate in the Enduring Mission of God. Amos then went on to proclaim the Word of God to all people in Judah and Jerusalem. Join us as we study the book of Amos and see how every one of us can proclaim the Word of God as we join in God's Enduring Mission.

February 14

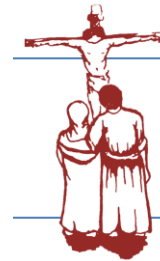
MICAH: *Sweet Results*

Micah 1, 5, 7

Micah begins his prophetic work by pronouncing pain and destruction, judgement and ruin. Three chapters in, there seems to be no hope for the people of Israel. The rulers are denounced, the prophets are discredited, and existence is bleak. Micah then points to the Mountain of the Lord, and the hope we all share.

When the Enduring Mission of God is complete, there will be a sweet result for the people of God. Join us in the study of Micah, a prophet who points us to the result of God's Enduring Mission.

HERE I AM: DISCIPLES



HERE I AM! DISCIPLES

The Disciples, the people who followed Jesus and abandoned Him in their darkest hour, directly participated in the fulfillment of the mission of Christ. They were chosen by Him directly; they sat at the feet of Jesus Christ and were taught by the Son of God. Jesus sent out these people to go two by two and cast out demons. The disciples were transfigured as they saw their teacher for who He really was, the Son of God, the Holy One of God who wrapped a towel around His waist and served them. Join us as we study the people who journeyed with Jesus and uniquely participated in God's Enduring Mission.

February 21

CHOSEN: *Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11, John 1:35-51*

While the prophets heard the call from God, the disciples were unique in that they saw the physical body of Jesus. There was nothing in Him that promised riches or earthly power, and yet, the disciples followed Jesus on His earthly mission begun in Bethlehem and completed on Calvary.

February 28

TAUGHT: *Matthew 13, Luke 9:46-50*

All of us are students of Jesus, but the disciples were front and center because they were taught by Jesus. The disciples heard parable after parable, and it is in Matthew 13 where they question the teaching method of Jesus. They should have had better understanding of the works of Jesus. However, often they had to be humbled as they were told they must become like little children in Luke 9 to join Jesus in God's Enduring Mission.

March 7

SENT: *Luke 9:1-6, 23-27*

It can be difficult to go out and serve. The disciples likely experienced this as they were sent out by Jesus. They had watched Christ save people, serve, and teach. Now, Jesus was sending them out to go and participate in the work. The most difficult part came when Jesus told them what this would mean to be sent in His name.

March 14

TRANSFIGURED: *Matthew 17*

At the transfiguration of our Lord, the disciples were in awe. Peter, James, and John were taken to the mountaintop where they saw Jesus transformed before their very eyes. They had served alongside Jesus for some time, but when Moses and Elijah arrived, Peter wanted to build a shelter for all three of them. We too struggle with wanting more than just Jesus, but when the cloud clears and God has spoken, we see Jesus alone.

March 21

SERVED: *John 17*

Jesus, both God and man, shared a meal with His disciples. More than that, Jesus wrapped a towel around His waist and washed them. Often, we struggle to see ourselves as people who are being served by Jesus. We can get wrapped up in our actions rather than accepting God's grace. Yet Christ tells Peter, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Christ leaves the disciples with this final example and lesson before His ultimate act of service in the laying down of His life on the cross for them, completing the mission He was sent for, and the Mission that Endures today.

HERE I AM: Evangelism Today



April 11

WITNESSED: *Acts 1*

At the very beginning of Acts, Jesus told His disciples that they would "be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And would they ever! Starting in Jerusalem and radiating outward, the Good News of Jesus spread to the world! As we await Christ's return, we are called to do the same.

April 18

IN JERUSALEM: *Matthew 28:18-20, (Mark 16:15-18), Luke 24:45-49, John 20:21-23, Acts 1:8*

Christians are familiar with Jesus' famous instruction: "Go and make disciples of all

nations..." Yet, each Gospel captures a different aspect of that Great Commission. Christians are to strengthen each other with the message of the Gospel, even as we share it with those outside the "Jerusalem" of the Church. We contemplate what it means to live out Jesus' call to "be my witnesses in Jerusalem..."

April 25

IN ALL JUDEA: *Romans 12:2, 17:22-32*

Just as the disciples left Jerusalem to share the Good News with their fellow countrymen in Judea, we are called to share the Gospel with our fellow Americans. Cultural opposition to Christianity, the existence of America's "Civic Religion," and confusion about what it means to have a separation of church and state can become stumbling blocks. The first disciples took part *in* the world without becoming *of* it; how might we do the same? We consider what it means to "be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea..."

May 2

AND SAMARIA: *1 Corinthians 9:20*

It is one thing to evangelize to those who share our culture; what does it mean to represent Christ in foreign lands? What does Scripture teach us about being accommodating while proclaiming truth, and about lifting up others without looking down on them for cultural differences? How might the Church acknowledge the beauty of diversity in her singular mission? We explore Jesus' call to "be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria..."

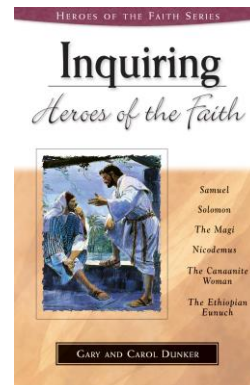
May 9

AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH

Jesus called us to "be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth!" We reflect on

all we have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested, and we look outward toward our community. How might we be Christ's witnesses, right here in Iowa City?

HEROES OF THE FAITH



December 16

January 6 – February 3

Wednesday Nights (6 sessions)

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Inquiring Heroes of the Faith will introduce you to the cultural setting and life story of biblical characters, examine the joys and challenges they faced, and show how God forgave, sustained, and empowered them to serve Him. This study includes:

- Samuel
- Solomon
- The Magi
- Nicodemus
- The Canaanite Woman
- The Ethiopian Eunuch

As you progress through the six-session study, you will learn how God chooses ordinary people – people like you – to do His extraordinary work.

This study is part of the *Heroes of Faith* Bible study series that highlights men and women in the Bible who overcame extraordinary difficulties.

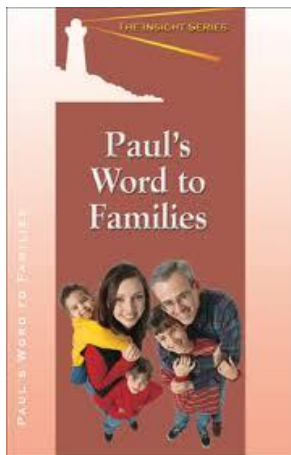
REV. BRIAN GAUTHIER:
PANAMÁ: AN ENDURING MISSION

October 11

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study
9:30 am – 10:15 am

Rev. Brian Gauthier and his wife Amanda served as missionaries in Panamá. Rev. Gauthier coordinated all theological education in Panamá in conjunction with Luther Academy and Concordia Seminary & Mercy Center in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic. He also served as an adjunct professor at the seminary. He has recently accepted a faculty position at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska.

PAUL'S WORD TO FAMILIES



February 10, 24

March 3, 10

Wednesday Nights (4 sessions)

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Explore St. Paul's words of encouragement and instruction for families. Through this four-session study you will gain insight into what it means to be a child of God in the context of your family.

- Session 1: Paul's Word about Roles

- Session 2: Paul's Word about Justification
- Session 3: Paul's Word about Discipline
- Session 4: Paul's Word about Values

DR. SARAH MATTHIAS:
SERVE THE LORD WITH JOY



October 4

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study
9:30 am – 10:15 am

Dr. Sarah Matthias, pediatrician from Seward, Nebraska, will relate some of the lessons learned about poverty during her 15 years of medical mission visits to Guatemala where she "served with joy" and will tell stories of joining God in His work around the world.

Dr. Sarah Matthias completed medical school in Iowa City and was a part of the Our Redeemer family at that time. She returns to share the lessons learned by herself, fellow congregation members and, more recently, health students from Concordia University-Seward where her husband, Ryan, is campus pastor. Dr. Matthias will share some of her experiences as leader of short-term medical mission visits to Guatemala.

We can all "serve with joy" in the place where God puts us, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* ~Ephesians 2:10.

Bible Studies at a Glance

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Study time is offered between 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:

No Sunday School and Bible Class on:

September 6, 2020 (Labor Day)
November 29, 2020 (Thanksgiving)
December 27, 2020 (Christmas Break)
January 3, 2021 (Christmas Break)
March 28, 2021 (Palm Sunday)
April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday)
May 16, 2021 (Senior Breakfast)
May 30, 2021 (Memorial Day)
June 6, 2021 (Christ Cares Sunday)

September 13

TBA Rally Day for all ages

September 20 - September 27

Theme Song: Here I Am, Lord!

October 4

Dr. Sarah Matthias - Serve the Lord with Joy

October 11

Brian Gauthier – Panamá: An Enduring Mission

October 18 - November 22

Everyone His Witness: LASSIE

December 6 - 20

HERE I AM: Statements

January 10 - February 14

HERE I AM: Prophets

February 21 - March 21

HERE I AM: Disciples

April 11 - May 9

HERE I AM: Evangelism Today

WEDNESDAY MORNING

On the first and third Wednesday morning of each month, 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 part of our Midweek program.

September 23 - November 18; December 2 - 9

The Christian Life Today:

Prayer

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

December 16; January 6 - February 3

Heroes of the Faith

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

February 10 - March 10

Paul's Word to Families

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

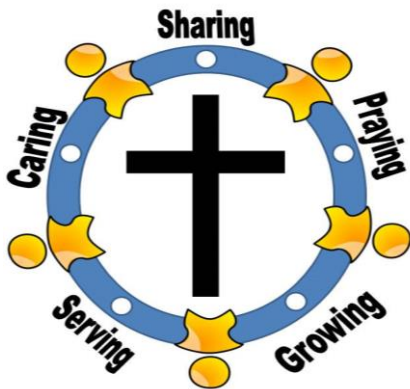
April 7 - 28

Discipleship Series:

Chosen by God

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 who share a common interest and meet regularly in their homes for Scripture, prayer, and service, with concern and support for one another.

Small Group Ministry (SGM) has been active in 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 for the growth of relationships.

GROWING

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

SERVING

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

CURRENT GROUPS

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

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.
- New 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 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 319-383-4597. Thank you!

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Usually the main dish is provided and those attending may contribute by bringing a potluck dish. During this COVID-19 pandemic, participants are asked to bring their own lunches and socially distance.

You are also invited to come an hour earlier at 11:00 am to participate in an interesting Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by the pastor and/or vicar.

Please join us for both events or come to the event that your schedule permits.

For more information, contact Betty Redeker at 337-9051.

CHRIST IN FILM



6:00 pm, Thursday nights as listed

CHRIST IN FILM

For over 100 years Hollywood has informed and influenced American popular culture. Tinseltown incorporates Christian themes to a surprising degree!

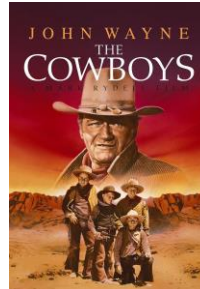
There are films about Jesus Christ, and there are films with “Christ-figures” that parallel His story. The “Messianic Archetype” appears in many films! Christ figures are portrayed as “saviors” of individuals, groups of people, or even all humanity.

They endure a sizable sacrifice as the means of bringing that salvation about for others, often a fate they do not deserve, up to and including death or a fate worse than death.

Other elements may be mixed and matched as required but the Messianic Archetype will include one or more of the following: being the Chosen One, gaining a group of devoted followers, being betrayed by a follower, facing persecution from nonbelievers, parallels to the Passion, obvious “Crucified Hero” pose, a figurative or literal resurrection, and even a Second Coming! Occasionally, the character even has the initials “J.C.”

September 24, 2020

Cool Hand Luke
(PG)



October 22, 2020

The Cowboys
(PG)

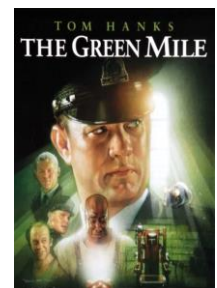
November 19, 2020

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
(PG)



January 28, 2021

ET: The Extra-Terrestrial
(PG)



February 25, 2021

The Green Mile
(R)



March 25, 2021

Harry Potter – Book 7, Part II
(PG-13)



April 22, 2021

Les Miserables
(PG-13)

BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN**1 & 2 Thessalonians**

**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 letters to the church in Thessalonica are among the first, if not the very first, of his epistles to the early church. One might have expected the world to change between ~50 A.D. and today, but the challenges those first Christians faced are eerily similar to our own!

Thessalonica was a bustling, busy, working port city on the Aegean Sea and nestled onto a major ancient highway. As one might expect, temptation came by both road and boat. Yet through the instruction of Paul and Timothy, the fledgling church there remained generally faithful. Paul's loving, fatherly letters commend them for their faith and virtue, encourage them (and us!) to continue to grow in love toward God and one another, and give us instruction—and hope—for the Last Day.

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

**LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
(LLL)**

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

Our Redeemer 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.

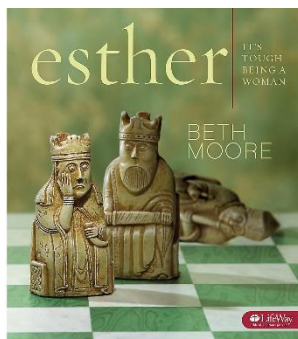
One important outreach ministry LLL supports is 511 Melrose, the meeting place for Iowa City Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

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



MEN AT THE CROSS

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN



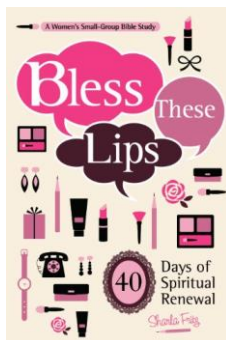
ESTHER: IT'S TOUGH BEING A WOMAN

By Beth Moore

Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am
September 22; October 6, 20
November 3, 17; December 8
January 12, 26; February 9, 23
March 9, 23
ZOOM Class

Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman - Bible Study Book by **Beth Moore** provides a personal study experience five days a week plus viewer guides for the group video sessions of this in-depth women's Bible study of Esther—a profile in courage. Join Beth in a very personal examination of this great story of threat and deliverance as she peels back the layers of history and shows how very contemporary and applicable the story of Esther is to our lives today.

If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seemed overpowering, this is the Bible study for you. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. This portion of God's Word contains treasures to aid us in our hurried, harried, and pressured lives.



BLESS THESE LIPS

Thursday evenings
7:00-8:00 pm
October 1, 15, 29
November 5,
December 3, 17,
January 7, 21

Oops. A mouth mishap. The words just slipped out, and there is no taking them back.

Words are powerful. They can build up or tear down. They can affirm and teach or criticize and condemn.

By God's grace, a mouth makeover can improve our relationships and affect our attitude toward life. Our words can enrich our connection to God as we spend more time in prayer and praise. Most important, God desires that we use the gift of speech to give Him praise, encourage others, and verbalize our faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

Bless These Lips: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal examines things we say that get in the way of our relationships with God and with others. Each chapter draws on lip product analogies and uses humor, anecdotes, and observations to introduce Scripture passages that address common behaviors and attitudes. And each day's reading includes Bible study questions and suggestions for personal reflection.

For individuals and small groups, this eight-week study centers on Scripture, for it is God's Word and His Holy Spirit that provide everything needed to develop lovely, God-pleasing lips.

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, a speaker or mission project, and a snack. A collection for mites and one for general offering are taken.

LWML SPECIAL COMMITTEES

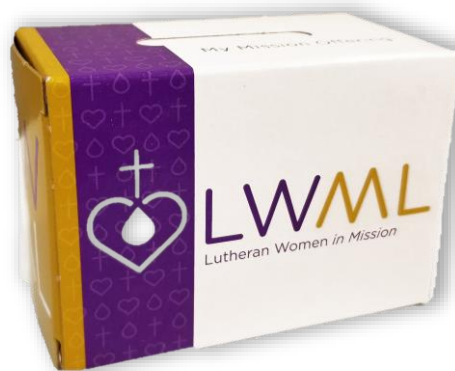
Within this group are many smaller groups that serve our congregation in the mission to further the Word. These sometimes are ordinary things. You can send a faith-based greeting card from our Card Shop or assist the church library ladies in processing new items.

We have a faithful group of women 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. Our Redeemer campers at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are eligible for one third of the cost, up to \$60. Grants to women serving Jesus Christ and supporting the LWML through the LCMS or its recognized service organizations may apply for grants starting at \$100. Call Laurel Sellers at 319-331-3242 for more information.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

December 5, 2020

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 by the 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.

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."*

~ Mark 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.

2020-2021 LWML SCHEDULE

2020

September 12 **District Convention**
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

September 21 **Bible Study** 7:00 pm
Vicar Donald Stein

October 3 **Fall Zone Rally**
St Paul's, Marion

October 4 **LWML Sunday**
Kingdom people produce Kingdom Fruit (Matthew 21:43)
Honey Sunday to support Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch

October 12 **Lutheran World Relief Packing** 6:00 pm

October 17 **World Relief Pickup** 8:00 am

October 19 **ORLC Plantings** 7:00 pm
Linda Diggelmann

November 16 **Mission Experience**
Devyn Alt 7:00 pm

December 5 **Christmas Cookie Walk**
9:00 am – 11:00 am

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

December 14 **LWML Christmas Party**
7:00 pm

December 16 **Advent Supper**
Serving Committee 5:10 pm

2021

January No meeting

February 15 **Bunco Night for Charity**
Nominating Committee (VP & Treasurer) 7:00 pm

March 15 **Houses into Homes** 7:00 pm

March 17 **Lenten Supper**
Serving Committee 5:10 pm

April TBD **LWR Kit Packing** 6:00 pm

April TBA **Spring World Relief Pickup**

April 19 **Eunice Scheer** 7:00 pm
Nursing in the Military

April 24 **Tasting Bee** 11:00 am

May TBA **Spring Zone Rally**

May 10 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
2021-2022 Calendar Planning

May 17 **Guild Night Out** 6:00 pm

June 24-27 **39th Biennial LWML Convention**
Theme: *"Running the race...Looking to Jesus"*
(Hebrews 12:1-2) in Lexington, KY

July No meeting

August **Road Trip** – TBD

September 21 **Salad Potluck** 6:00 pm
Report on Convention

Youth

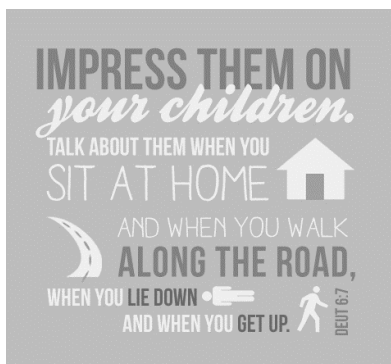
6th – 12th Graders

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*



PARENTS OF YOUTH

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

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, which is held on Palm Sunday for the 8th grade Confirmands.

- **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.

What is taught during Confirmation?

6th Grade

The Bible: Old Testament
The Bible: New Testament

7th Grade

The Ten Commandments
The Lord's Prayer
Baptism

8th Grade

The Apostles' Creed
Office of the Keys and Confession
The Sacrament of the Altar

CONFIRMATION RETREATS

Students are expected to attend three retreats held during the school year. Since lessons are taught during these retreats, it is important for students to participate. The youth really enjoy their time spent at the retreats. There are fees for each retreat, but full scholarships are available.

FALL

We host a 6th grade fall retreat and a separate 7th & 8th grade fall retreat. These retreats are an overnight event held at church on a Friday night and ending Saturday morning.

WINTER

This retreat is for 6th, 7th & 8th graders and is held at a local hotel. This retreat is also on a Friday night and ends on Saturday morning. The youth enjoy getting to swim as part of the fellowship time of this retreat.

SPRING

This special retreat is for 6th, 7th & 8th graders and their parents. It is a weekend retreat. We usually leave church on a Friday around noon and return late Sunday afternoon. For this trip, we take a charter bus to one of these cities: St. Louis, St. Paul, or Chicago. At each destination, we learn about one person of the Holy Trinity (St. Louis – God the Father; St. Paul – God the Son; and Chicago – God the Holy Spirit).

Successful completion of Confirmation instruction is an important milestone in a young person's spiritual life and is just one step of his/her faith journey here at Our Redeemer.

CONFIRMATION YOUTH

6th – 8th graders

Weekly Activities

Sunday School – every Sunday at 9:15 am; meets in Room 208

Confirmation Class – every Wednesday at 6:45 pm; meets in classrooms on lower level

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

As youth move forward into high school, Our Redeemer continues its dedication to equip our youth as disciples of Jesus. Each week, we offer Sunday School and Midweek classes geared specifically for high school students.

These classes give high school students the opportunity to understand and grow in God's Word and build on the foundation given them in baptism and Confirmation classes.

Each month during the school year, there are usually high school youth activities, such as Youth Worship rehearsals, service projects, fundraisers, the annual ski trip, and more.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

9th – 12th graders

Weekly Activities

Sunday School – every Sunday at 9:15 am

Midweek – every Wednesday at 6:45 pm

MIDWEEK

High School Youth meet in the **youth room** from 6:45 pm until 8:00 pm 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 13 from 4:00-6:00 pm.**

SUMMER SERVANT EVENT – UKANDU



UKANDU is the summer servant event for high school youth at Our Redeemer. Participants can expect to serve alongside 250 other people from a variety of churches to bring the love of Jesus to the people of inner-city Chicago.

UKANDU 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 2021 will be announced in January 2021. Usually, UKANDU is held the last full week of June in Chicago.

LCMS 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 next **LCMS Youth Gathering** will be held in Houston in July 2022. Registration will begin in September 2021.

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 LCMS 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.

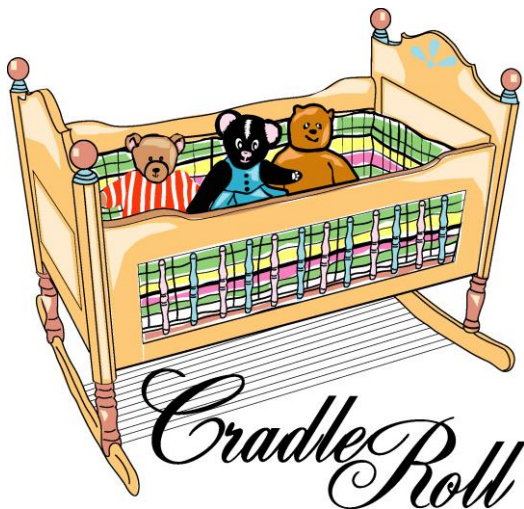
we believe

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.



"Let the little children
come to Me
and do not hinder them,
for to such belongs
the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 19:14



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:

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 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
\$221/Month

Tuesday/Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$162/Month

5 Days
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$366/Month

** For Extended Care Options, contact the Director*

** Scholarships are available for those who apply. See Director for more information.*

Our Redeemer Christian 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 children. For more information about our Kids Club, please contact the church office or our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Marnie Schrader.

Little Lambs is for children 4 years through Kindergarten. **CrossTown** is for our children in 1st and 2nd grades, while the **Faith Explorers** includes our children in grades 3 - 5.

Every Wednesday evening at Kids Club, the children learn Bible stories and verses, sing worship songs and hymns, play games, complete crafts and participate in mission projects. These programs provide fun and enriching midweek Christian activities, as well as fellowship with their church family.

Cost

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

We will not be ordering T-shirts this year. There will be no cost for either trading in your current shirt for a larger size or requesting a new shirt. Children are encouraged to wear their shirts weekly and prizes are awarded.

Registration can be done electronically via Google Document, by contacting the

church office at 319-338-5626 or emailing the Kids Club Director, Marnie Schrader, at childrensministry@ourredeemer.org.

CALENDAR

Classes begin on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:45 in the Fellowship Hall with our Opening and Kids Club Parent Orientation. We will begin on time and will end with The Lord's Prayer at 8:00. Parents will need to come into the building to pick children up. Kids Club Sunday will be Sunday, February 28, 2021. Midweek Celebration (our finale for the year) will be Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

CANCELLATION

If the Iowa City schools are cancelled on a Wednesday, our Kids Club program (*Little Lambs, Cross Town, Faith Explorers*) will also be cancelled on that day. If school is virtual, stay tuned to Channel 9 KCRG or the ourredeemer.org website for last minute weather-related cancellations.

SNACKS

Our snacks are provided through donations. The snack coordinator will place a sign-up sheet at our Kids Club Parent Orientation and will contact parents throughout the year as snacks are needed.

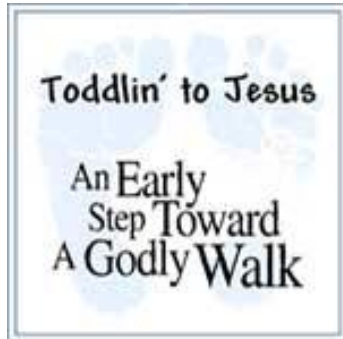
BIRTHDAYS

Once a month throughout the Midweek year, we will celebrate student birthdays for that month during our snack time. Parents can sign up to bring special snacks for their child/ren's birthdays on these nights. You may sign up on orientation night or contact the snack coordinator to arrange this.

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

See church map of classroom locations at the end of the Equipping Disciples 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 Marnie Schrader at childrensministry@ourredeemer.org or (319)530-1563.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

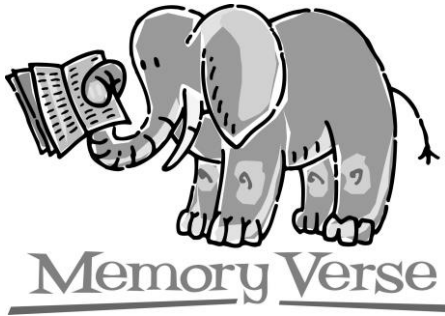
On Sunday mornings, children ages 3-years through 8th grade attend classes to help them develop an "Enduring Faith." Our 3-year-old preschool class meets in its classroom beginning at 9:15 am. Four-year-old preschool through 4th grade students meet at 9:15 in the choir room for music and attend class from 9:30-10:15. Students in grades 5 through 8 attend their class from 9:15 - 10:00 am and go to the chapel from 10:00 - 10:15 am for music.

Our classrooms are bursting with energy and excitement for learning true Bible knowledge. Each week, students hear the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection and are exposed to a wide range of Bible stories. Our lesson time also includes drama, crafts, various lesson-related activities, and memory work. Sunday school is held year-round, except for select holidays and other special church events. Look in our weekly **Reflections** for further announcements. For more information, contact Marnie Schrader at childrensministry@ourredeemer.org or 319-530-1563.

Classroom Locations

See church map on the back of this booklet.

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 and Bible memory verse at an early age. These are taught in the classroom lesson times.

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 Scripture more easily.
- Selected Scripture and hymns can be recited to give strength and encouragement in times of distress and pain.
- Memorization reminds the students of their beliefs and provides strength to live accordingly.
- It has learning potential.

What is Our Redeemer's goal? Memory selections:

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

On Sunday School Sunday, April 25, 2021, classes will have a group time where they will share their memory verses and songs with all the other Sunday School groups.

It is highly recommended that teachers and parents also learn the Memory Assignments! Memory Assignments to the congregation:

| Memory Assignments | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Toddlin' | Jesus Loves Me & Hippo Song |
| 3 years | Exodus 3:12 |
| 4 years | Exodus 3:12 |
| Kindergarten | Psalms 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 |

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & LUNCH



Children in Kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to participate in our annual Children's Christmas Service. This program to be held on Sunday, December 13, 2020, during both the 8:00 and 10:30 am services offers children an opportunity to actively share the Good News of our Savior's birth.

Children in the 3 & 4-year old, Preschool A & Preschool B, will learn and practice songs in their classroom and will share them at the beginning of the Children's Christmas Service.

Children will learn songs for the program during Sunday School music time in October and November. There will be two Saturday morning practices on December 5 & 12, 2020, as well. More information will be given in October 2020.

The program is followed by a wonderful soup luncheon in the Fellowship Hall by the Children's Ministry Committee. For more information, contact Marnie Schrader at childrensministry@ourredeemer.org or 319-530-1563.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Tentative Date: August 1-5, 2021

Children age 4 years through 8th grade enjoy a fantastic week here at Our Redeemer 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, music, Bible memory work and recreation.

Volunteers are always needed to help in various positions. For more information, contact Marnie Schrader at childrensministry@ourredeemer.org or(319)530-1563.



Service Connections:

ASSIMILATION

Assimilation seeks 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.

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's educational ministries. These ministries include Sunday School, Kids Club, and Vacation Bible School. For more information, contact the church office at 338-5626 or redemer@ourredeemer.org.

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 or redemer@ourredeemer.org.



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 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.

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 1, 2020
12:00 pm**

The committee hosts a dinner each fall, with entertainment and/or raffles, 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

Members of our congregation may take an angel from the tree and provide the gift requested by the child whose parent is a prisoner. Sometimes these may be the only gifts these kids receive. In addition, a gift card for groceries is included in each gift bag along with information about Our Redeemer.

MITTEN TREE

Members of our congregation donate mittens, scarves, snow pants, and hats. The committee donates them to the Iowa City School District for distribution to students who need them.

COMMUNITY BIN IN THE NARTHEX

Members of our congregation donate food and paper products. Each week the donations are delivered to the CommUnity (formerly Crisis Center). The congregation is very generous as it amounts to several tons of items each year, including the VBS donation of approximately 800 items.

**COMMUNITY SPREAD THE LOVE
CAMPAIGN**

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

SOCTOBER

October is **Soctober**. For people without permanent housing, feet work overtime when there isn't a warm home to return to each night. Socks are not often donated, yet new socks are like gold to homeless people. We ask the congregation to donate new crew socks (dark are preferred) with a reinforced toe. Notices will be put in **Reflections** and **Beacon** and signs will be posted. The socks will be delivered to CommUnity in early November.

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 339-9060.

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 CommUnity.

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 our community with the message of forgiveness, life, 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

What does the Outreach Committee do to provide opportunities for members to reach out to others? Some of what we do:

- Christ Cares Sunday – serve our community in multiple ways
- 4th of July Parade Float – hand out bottles of water with a Bible verse
- Johnson County Fair Booth – share information about our Savior, church, and preschool

- Fun Faith Fest – provide worship, food, fun, games, and fellowship
- City High Homecoming Parade – serve hot dogs and chips
- Christmas and Carols – serve cookies and hot cocoa
- Live Nativity – serve cookies and hot cocoa and cider
- Co-fund two preschool mailers
- Biblical Characters of Lent – share God’s Word
- Visitor Letters – reach out to visitors who worship with us

For more information, contact Marlene Thompson at 319-338-2938 or Marilyn Kempnich at 319-351-5297, co-chairs of the Outreach Committee.

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* can be found on the website (www.ourredeemer.org) under the publications tab and a link is emailed each month. 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 5:00 pm on the 20th of each month. Contact our Office Coordinator, Lorrie Bailey.

CARD SHOP

LWML hosts a Christian card shop located just outside the Fellowship Hall. This service is available to provide low-cost Christian messages of encouragement, hope, 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, Lorrie Bailey, 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 office. Additional 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 for 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 or through 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*. The most recent copies are available on the wire rack.

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

THEME SONG

Here I Am, Lord (1 Samuel 3:8-9)

1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Chorus:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My Word to them.
Whom shall I send?"

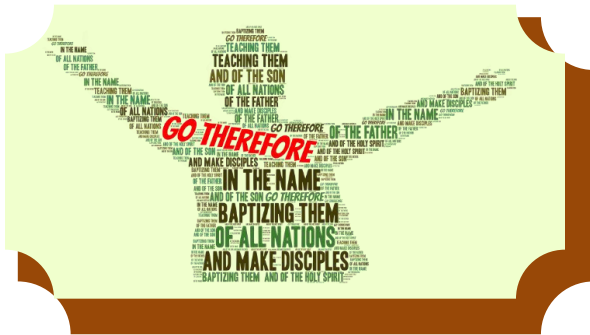
(chorus)

3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send?"

(chorus)

"Here I Am, Lord", © 1981 by Daniel J. Schutte and New Dawn Music, *The Best of the Best*, Fellowship Publications, Page 86.
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Worship Connections:



Embracing the Great Commission (Stewardship Series)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age!"

~Matthew 28:19-20

The Great Commission is the command of the resurrected Jesus to His disciples to spread His teachings to all the nations of the world. Through His Word and the working of the Holy Spirit, God makes us His disciples, and He honors us with the privilege to be His instruments through which He works. We are to be Jesus' hands, feet, and mouth to encourage the faithful as well give witness to people who do not know Him as their Lord and Savior. This is a privilege for every part of our lives!

Stewardship Sunday 1: September 20

Stewardship Sunday 2: October 18

Stewardship Sunday 3: November 2



The Enduring Mission of Our Father (Advent Sermon Series)

God the Father created everyone and everything that ever was and ever will be. He provides daily for all needs of body, soul, heart, and mind—and greatest of all—God the Father provides His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior.

This Advent we focus on the loving promises and actions of our Heavenly Father in two ways: firstly, through familiar Psalms written hundreds of years before the birth of the promised Christ and, secondly, through the First Article of the Apostles Creed as explained in the Small Catechism.

Advent Midweek 1: December 2

Jesus Shows Us Our Creator

(Psalm 95:1-7)

Advent Midweek 2: December 9

Jesus Shows Us Our Provider

(Psalm 104:27-30)

Advent Midweek 3: December 16

Jesus Shows Us the Father's Heart

(Psalm 103:11-13)

Advent Midweek 4: December 23
The Messiah will be the Son of God
(Psalm 2:7; Luke 1:31–35;
Matthew 3:16–17; Hebrews 1:5–6)

Christmas Eve: December 24
4:30 pm & 6:30 pm

Christmas Midnight: December 24
11:30 pm

Christmas Day: December 25
9:30 am



Enduring Mission: The Gospel in Seven Words (Lenten Sermon Series)

Lent is a time of preparation as we Christians prepare to remember the most powerful moments of the ‘Greatest Story Ever Told.’ That true story of Christ’s Humiliation, Suffering, Passion, and Death have had a profound effect on the world, and especially on those who confess Jesus as Lord.

Through Christ’s Death and Resurrection, Christians have been written into that story. Yet many Christians struggle to find the words to share it. This sermon series helps Christians find “The Gospel in Seven Words.”

Ash Wednesday: February 17
Lenten Midweek 1: February 24
Lenten Midweek 2: March 3
Lenten Midweek 3: March 10
Lenten Midweek 4: March 17
Lenten Midweek 5: March 24
Palm Sunday: March 28
Maundy Thursday: April 1
Good Friday: April 2
Easter: April 4

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 2, 2020
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Lenten Dinners

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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. 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! During this COVID-19 pandemic, there is no “starting date” on the calendar. The director, Louise Klopp, is looking into ways to incorporate the choir especially for the Christmas and Carols service.

If you are interested in details, please contact Louise Klopp at choirdirector@ourredeemer.org.

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 that can be taken during the service and returned to the "trees" at the close. **During this COVID-19 pandemic, these bags will not be available.**

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 in non-COVID times.

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! At this time, there are no plans to get a group Bell Choir together, but the director, Louise Klopp, is looking into ways to incorporate bell music into services.

If you are interested in details, please contact Louise Klopp at choirdirector@ourredeemer.org.

NURSERY

We are pleased to have children at worship and encourage families to bring them. Due to COVID sanitizing considerations, please refrain from using the nursery at this time. The changing table along with sanitizing wipes are available in the hallway.

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 substitute. 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. At this time, there are no plans to get the group together, but the director, Louise Klopp, is looking into ways to incorporate the Praise Team into the service.

If you are interested in details, please contact Louise Klopp at choirdirector@ourredeemer.org.

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, Kevin Sellers, at 319-631-8924 or at technology@ourredeemer.org.

USHERS

Ushers are an important part of our Sunday services. Normally, they would distribute worship bulletins and other worship aids prior to the services, assist in gathering the offering, and distributing communion.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ushers guide worshipers directly from their cars to their pews prior to service, and back again afterward.

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 leads a youth choir for youth in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Youth choir will not meet through COVID. When infection rates decrease, children in those age groups will be contacted.

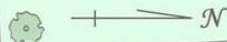
An up-to-date 2020-2021 Calendar

Available at www.ourredeemer.org
Click on 'Master Calendar'

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.

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



Directory



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

Sunday Morning Classrooms:

| Age/Grade | Room Number |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 0-3 Year Olds | 219 |
| 4 Year Olds - Kindergarten | 215 |
| 1 st /2 nd /3 rd Grades | 217 |
| 4 th /5 th Grades | 206 |
| 6 th /7 th /8 th Grade | 208-Classroom |
| High School | 110-Classroom |
| Adult | 101-Fellowship Hall |

Wednesday Night Classrooms:

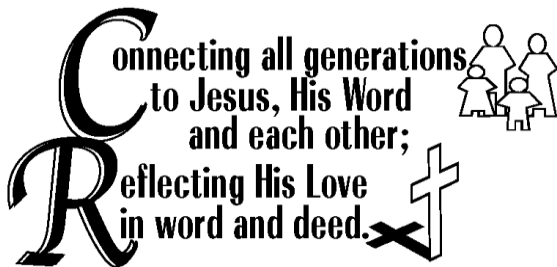
| Age/Grade | Room Number |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kids Club (4 Year Olds)- 5 th Grade | Outdoors of Gathering Place |
| 6 th Grade Small Group, Girls 8 th Grade Small Group, Girls | 117-Classroom |
| 6 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 | Outdoors or Fellowship Hall |
| 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

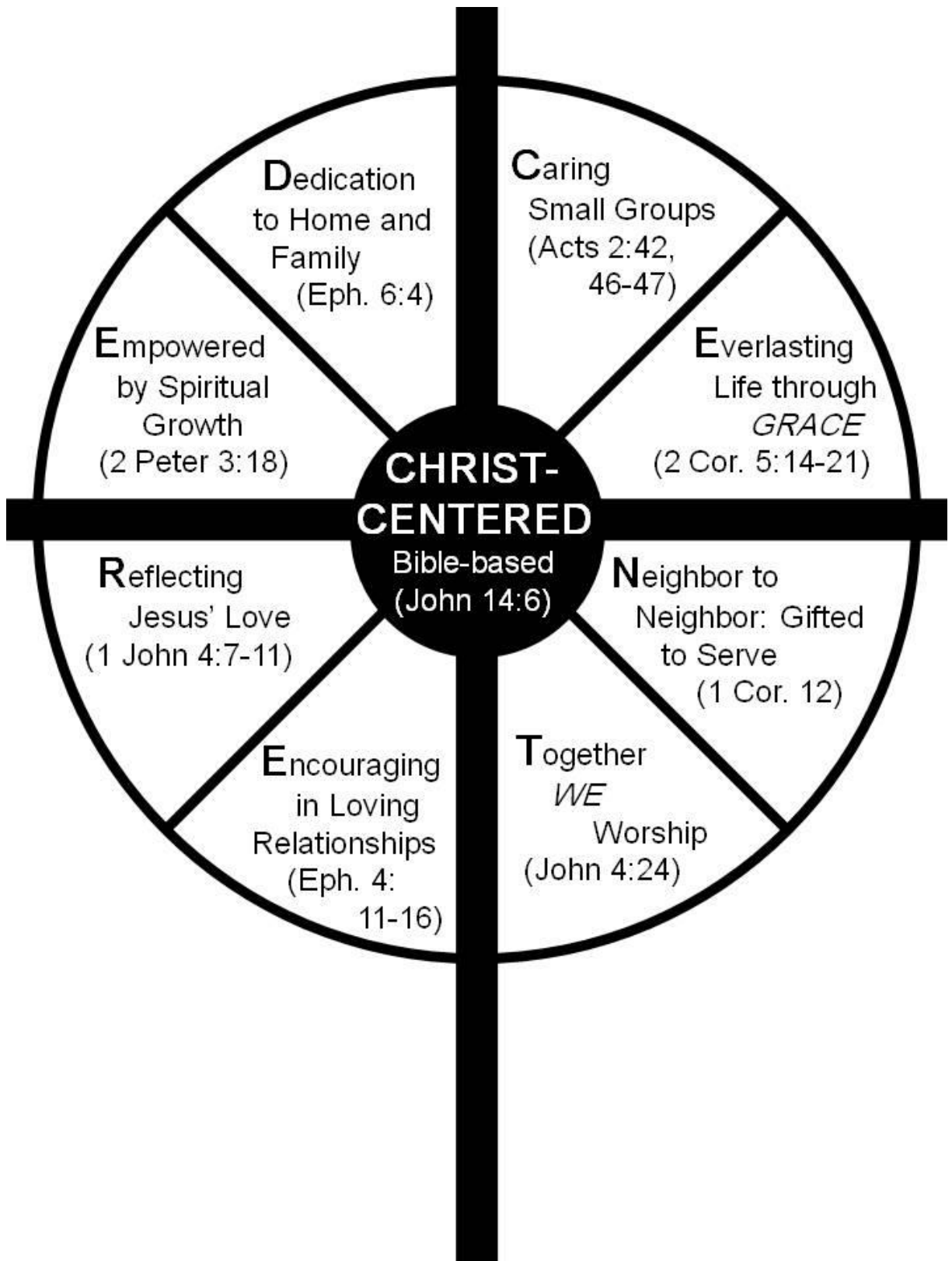
We believe that all of us—individually and corporately—are to reflect Jesus' unconditional love in word and deed, living the Christian life as followers (disciples) of Christ. (1 John 4:7-11)

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 (Non-COVID)

“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, according to Ephesians 5:19. Receiving the keynote 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 pm & 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.

PLEASE NOTE at this time in-person, socially distanced services vary (masks required). Available on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZqA0kuhQeyMn48_giM2jw are pre-recorded and Live Stream services.

Watch ourredeemer.org for changes.