

# The Parish Beacon

Volume 43—No. 5

May 2022

Grace, mercy, and peace unto you –

## WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?

Imagine the faithful women going to the tomb after that saddest of all days when Jesus was crucified. It's very early in the morning, the Gospel writer Mark tells us, when they begin their walk with their spices to anoint their Savior's body.

They're still grief-stricken, of course, but they have another problem: How will they move the huge stone that blocks the passageway to Jesus' burial place? They arrive to find it's already been moved. Well, that's curious.

They enter the tomb, but there's no body!

While they were "*perplexed about this,*" the Gospel writer Luke understates, "*behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead?'*" (Luke 24:3-5).

Why did they look for Christ to be in His tomb?  
Why were they looking in the wrong place?

Because they hadn't understood the things Jesus had told them before His crucifixion.  
Because they were operating according to human logic.

Once someone has died, He's dead.

Of course, they would look for the dead among the dead.

This is a story that cannot be comprehended by human logic.  
This is a story to be believed and shared with others.

It's the good news the women heard:

*"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen"* (Luke 24:5-6).

We don't look for Christ among the dead for we know He is living!

Many around us are looking.

They read self-help books and follow the advice of the newest guru on TV.

They start reading "spiritual" books.

They're looking for the Living among the dead.

The angel brought God's Word to the women; it is our privilege to bring His Word to those around us who are looking.

***There is nothing DEAD about our JESUS! He is Risen!***

*"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Corinthians 15:56).

Easter Blessings, Pastor Hartwig



**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL**

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: [redeemer@ourredeemer.org](mailto:redeemer@ourredeemer.org)

[www.ourredeemer.org](http://www.ourredeemer.org)

Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Glorious Lord, You have worked the salvation of the world through the death and resurrection of Your Son. Give strength to our praise, and let our hearts and mouths be filled with the joy of Your wondrous works.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, Your Son visited disciples hiding away for fear of the Jews, as well as John when he was exiled by the Romans to Patmos. Sustain all Your disciples in the throes of persecution. Visit them with Your Easter Gospel, and give them their portion in the resurrection unto life everlasting.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, You have added believers to the Lord Jesus in all times and places, from those receptive and hostile alike. Shepherd the nations, particularly remembering Ukraine and Russia, and bring all peoples to embrace the Gospel of the resurrected Christ. Curb wicked rulers and break their power, that all would be brought to the feet of Jesus in worship.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, even the shadows of Your apostles brought healing to the afflicted people of Jerusalem. As we rest under the shadow of Your wings, heal Your afflicted servants, [*We especially pray for Theodore Alderman, Pete Berry (friend of Myrl and Denise Holida), Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), Ernest Bowman, Joanne Bowman, David Caplin (Lillian Moyer's son-in-law), Susan Carlson, Benita Carney, Jody Cole (Charles Calef's friend), Eme Elkeurti, Debra Fuhrmeister, Bryan Grafft, Emma Haugen (Friend of Gwen Enokian), Gabe Hundley (grandson of Karen Abernathy), Dora Jacobson (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), David Jones (Lonne Loney's uncle), David Johnson, Brad Koelper (Donna Saehler's nephew), Mike Kopf, Joanne Leeper (mother of Cathleen Loney), Cathleen Loney, Norma Miller (Twyla Freeman's aunt), Barb Nace (Doris Siemer's niece), Bob Nace, Deloris Nace, Chad Pence, Carter Roth (Grandson of Steven and Susan Scott), Rozie Siems (Daughter of Mary Siems), Reece Ullerich, Mark Wilson and Beth Wu (Schuldt's relative)*] that they would rejoice in Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, in life and in death you abide with us. Be with the families and friends of **Nora Sellers and Tom Osborn** as they mourn their deaths. Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for Your gifts to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the past 175 years. Chiefly for the gift of Jesus Christ, who alone is our salvation. We give thanks that for 175 years in the congregations of our Synod, You have richly and daily forgiven the sins of believers. Continue to sustain this synod according to your will.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, listen to our silent prayers.

[*we pause for a moment for silent prayer*]

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**



On Monday, May 16 the LWML is having a Ladies Night Out. We are going to the “Miller Homestead Cooking” out on Sharon Center Road. We will carpool from church at 5:15, arriving at the Homestead at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in joining us, please make reservations with Cynthia Fruendt by emailing her at [dcfruentd@icloud.com](mailto:dcfruentd@icloud.com) or calling her at 338-5546. If no answer, leave a message. Reservations need to be made by Sunday, May 8. Cost is \$18.50 (cash only). The main entree is Roast Beef and Chicken. We are limited to 30. We have 11 spots left.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun 4/24	Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 8:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:20am Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 10:30am District 10 2:30pm District 13 2:00pm
Mon 4/25	Staff Meeting 1:00pm Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm Iowa City Chamber Singers 6:30pm
Tues 4/26	Solon Nursing Home 9:30am SM-Small Group/Marlene 6:15pm SM-Training 6:45pm SM-Large Group/Marcia 6:45pm Al-Anon 7:00pm
Wed 4/27	TOPS 8:00am Emerson Point 2:00pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm Kid's Club Night 6:45pm Spiritual Growth Event 6:45pm Adult Midweek 7:00pm Spiritual Growth Reception 8:15pm
Thurs 4/28	Comfort Tiers 9:00am Over Eaters Anonymous 5:00pm Christ in Film 6:00pm Al-Anon 7:30pm
Fri 4/29	***
Sat 4/30	Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 5:30pm
Sun 5/1	Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 8:00am Sunday school & Adult Bible Class 9:20am Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 10:30am Haack Family Fellowship 11:30am

### Blessing Books *Now through May 8<sup>th</sup>*

As with so many things, senior books will need to be done differently this year. Your messages of congratulations and encouragement for the graduates will be done through email.

#### **WHO SHOULD "SIGN" THE BLESSING BOOKS?** Everyone in the congregation can sign.

**WHAT SHOULD I WRITE?** Write a short note of Christian encouragement, share your favorite Bible verse or simply sign your name.

**HOW DO I SHARE MY MESSAGE?** You can either write your message on a quarter sheet of paper and email a picture of it or just email the text you want--you can use the same message or create one for each student (please make sure that you specify the recipient of individual messages).

**Please email your message to Laurel at: [consultant@ourredeemer.org](mailto:consultant@ourredeemer.org) by May 8<sup>th</sup>**



Annie Bower  
 Madeline Caylor  
 Kale Clark  
 Matthew Davies  
 Abby Gabel  
 Rory James



Faith Reynolds  
 Peter Rocca  
 Sam Schaefer  
 Brock Wenck  
 William Wittich

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**\*\*WATCH YOUR FRIDAY EMAIL FOR LIVE STREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP\*\***

**Saturday 5:30pm In Person/LIVE STREAM  
 Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am In Person/LIVE STREAM  
 Sunday School 9:20am—In Person**

**Adult Bible Study 9:20am—Fellowship Hall/ZOOM  
 \*\*Communion: April 31, May 1, 14, 15, 28, 29\*\*\***

**Comfort-Tiers meet Thursdays at 9:00am**

**Choir practice Wednesdays at 6:45pm**

**Praise Team Practice schedule varies—  
 Contact Myrl Holida [myrl-holida@uiowa.edu](mailto:myrl-holida@uiowa.edu) or  
 Louise Klopp [choirdirector@ourredeemer.org](mailto:choirdirector@ourredeemer.org)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY



**Confirmation**  
**May 1**  
**10:30am Service**



GRAD BREAKFAST

**Grad Breakfast**  
**May 15**  
**9:20am**  
**Fellowship Hall**



**May 16**  
**6:00pm**



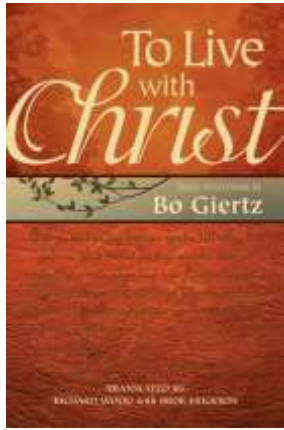
**Noisy Offering**  
**May 21/22**



**Sunday School Celebration**  
**May 22, 9:20am**



**Memorial Day**  
**May 30**  
**Office Closed**



4/24	First Sunday after Easter	p. 289
4/25	Monday after the First Sunday after Easter	p. 291
4/26	Tuesday after the First Sunday after Easter	p. 293
4/27	Wednesday after the First Sunday after Easter	p. 295
4/28	Thursday after the First Sunday after Easter	p. 297
4/29	Friday after the First Sunday after Easter	p. 299
4/30	Saturday after the First Sunday after Easter	p. 301



**Building Healthy Families: *Husbands, listen up!*** Did you know that 90% of effective communication is listening, not talking? When your wife is talking to you, stop what you are doing, turn toward her, and look at her face. Communicate the message that you are interested in and care about what she is saying. This is respectful, courteous, and is one way to build a great relationship! *Wives, want to build up your marriage?* Stop and think about your husband's gifts. (No, not the ones he gave you for your birthday!) What are his talents? What are his spiritual gifts? What does he love to do? What are his aspirations and accomplishments? Recognize them, name them, and communicate your respect for them...to him and to others. It will help build a great relationship! **Lutheran Family Service** - [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org).

### Adult Bible Class

Date	Topic
April 24-May 8; May 29	<i>The Philippians: To Live is Christ. To Die is Gain.</i>
May 22	<i>Sunday School Celebration</i>

### Upcoming Sunday School Lessons

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
April 24	Luke 15	Lost-and-Found Wonders—Jesus Seeks the Lost
May 1	John 9	The Seeing Sign—Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind
May 8	John 11:1-44	A Resurrection Sign—Jesus Raises Lazarus
May 15	<i>Graduation Breakfast all ages gather in the Fellowship Hall</i>	
May 22	<i>Sunday School Sunday Kids will speak at the end of early worship and the beginning of late worship Pastor leads a special celebration for kids &amp; adults in the Fellowship Hall</i>	
May 29	<i>Memorial Day Weekend—No Classes</i>	

## Birthdays

Sun 4/24	Richard Gienapp, James Roiseland, Corrie Sass, Jane Weppler, Jacob Wiley
Mon 4/25	Adam Fuhrmeister, Robert Hanson, Cindy Kreutz, Caitlin Pinnell, Kyle Sexton, Brian Westphal
Tues 4/26	Glorine Berry, Luke Young
Wed 4/27	Louise Klopp, Erica Watkinson
Thurs 4/28	Kelli Bruckman, Darrick Eldridge, Samuel Gienapp, Elisabeth Hottel, Jessi Kucera, Aaron Mueller, Samantha Nelson
Fri 4/29	Haleigh Jones, Curtis McBride
Sat 4/30	Denise Fesler, Sophie Foster, Erik Jorgensen

## Stewardship—April 16/17

ATTENDANCE-Easter		TREASURES	
Recorded Service 4/16	31	Contributions	\$28,357.78
Sat. 4/16 In Person/LIVE STREAM 5:30pm	63	A Little Farther	\$1,495.00
Sun. 4/17 In Person/LIVE STREAM 7:30am	102	Monthly needs for budget	\$64,902.00
Sun. 4/17 In Person/LIVE STREAM 9:00am	236	Maundy Thursday	209
Sun. 4/17 In Person/LIVE STREAM 10:30am	178	Good Friday	288
<b>TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>610</b>	Easter Egg Hunt	<b>33</b>

Thank you for your continued support.



MISSION	April
Iowa District East	\$3,333.33
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,583.33</b>
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	\$500.00
Lutheran Family Service	\$375.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$928.00
St. Paul's Chapel	\$375.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,761.33</b>
CommUnity Crisis Center	***
Lutherans For Life	***
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,861.33</b>

Pledges received for the month of April	\$4,332.62
Total amount of pledges received	\$320,861.90
Total amount pledges promised	\$365,174.87

## Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Transfer In</u>	
<u>Deaths</u>	
Richard Carl Scheit	04-09-2022
Ursuala Margaret Teggatz	04-11-2022
Betty Louise Kelly	03-30-2022
<u>New Member</u>	

# Mission Minute



Christ said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations."*

The Great Commission calls us to share God's Word near and far, and the Mission Committee at Our Redeemer has worked hard to do so, even in a pandemic! Now you have an opportunity to help. For the next six weeks we're going to hold a "Mission Minute" during service.

This Mission Minute will provide an update on six of Our Redeemer's missions:

- ~Panama FORO
- ~LCMS Iowa District East Scholarships for Church Workers
- ~Eswatini
- ~Pastor Becker's Mission in Africa
- ~Peace Officer Ministries
- ~UKANDU

One of these six missions will receive an extra allotment of mission funds— and you'll help decide which through a "Penny Vote!" Every individual may 'vote' with up to 100 pennies (one dollar's worth) per week, by placing them in the appropriate glass jars in narthex. At the end of these six weeks, mission funding will be allocated accordingly. Go, get your pennies ready to support the growth of God's Kingdom.

In Christ,  
Mission Committee



# Our Redeemer Preschool

For children ages 3-5 years and are potty trained

# Open House

May 10, 2022

5:30pm-6:30pm



- ♥ Meet the staff
- ♥ Explore our classroom
- ♥ Create a craft
- ♥ Ask questions
- ♥ Enroll your child

*Ask about our 5 days, 3 days, 2 days, and extended care options.*



Email: [preschool@ourredeemer.org](mailto:preschool@ourredeemer.org)

[www.http://ourredeemer.org/preschool/](http://ourredeemer.org/preschool/)

2301 East Court Street, Iowa City 52245



# ESWATINI (SWAZILAND)



## **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Mission Committee**

**Highlighting the Christian/humanitarian work of our congregation  
as a whole and as individuals here and around the world.**

Anita Nicholson continues to have strong ties to Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland), which is a small country located in Southern Africa, where two-thirds of the population live in rural areas and face extreme poverty and many health challenges. Eswatini is led by King Mswati III, one of the few remaining absolute Monarchies. If you want to learn more about the country, read: [The Culture of Swaziland](#).

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Anita led a study abroad program to Eswatini with University of Iowa nursing students, traveling twice a year. She continues to teach a non-travel Global Health course, in which she and her students keep in close contact with Eswatini colleagues.

The Eswatini nurses continue to play an important role in providing health care to people in rural areas that otherwise would not have access to care. Faith Community nurses provide holistic and spiritual nursing care. Good Shepherd Hospital nurses work with outreach programs - home-based care and community outreach clinics to provide physical, emotional, and spiritual care. In 2020, when COVID-19 first arrived in Eswatini, the nurses were leaders to help prevent the spread by educating people to wear masks, wash hands, and social distance. They recruited volunteers to make masks and created innovative ways to wash hands in the rural setting without running water. The nurses also continue to advocate for HIV/AIDS prevention strategies as well as encourage HIV testing and treatment.

The COVID pandemic worsened the economics of the country with gas, food, and supply shortages. Then, in June 2021, Eswatini's social unrest escalated with people protesting for democratic reform. King Mswati III directed his military security forces to disband protestors. Our Eswatini colleagues shared that the unrest is currently quelled.

Anita hopes to return to Eswatini with nursing students in March of 2023. She continues to raise money to financially support health care initiatives in Eswatini.

## **Mission Committee Members**

Denise Holidia, Anita Nicholson, Val Penney, & Bob Powers (Chairman Pro Tem)



Submitted by Marcia Hulse

# Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

## A Steady Reminder of God's Presence

A Stephen Ministry Story

Mark and I had been married 26 years. Our sons were 18 and 20. We love being parents, but with our younger son graduating high school, we were eagerly anticipating the empty nest and having more time for each other.

In the fall, when our younger son started college, Mark began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. He also developed a cough. When his doctor ordered an MRI, the results were devastating - Stage IV pancreatic cancer, already in his liver and both lungs. Mark was only 53.

Our lives were turned upside down. I suddenly found myself trying to provide emotional support to Mark and our sons during the worst experience any of us had ever endured. I wanted and needed to keep myself together to focus on caring for Mark, but I was emotionally drained—full of sadness and terrified of what the future held. I had always been a “take responsibility for everything myself” kind of person. However, I *knew* I couldn't do this alone.

I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits.

It's difficult to convey how important this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me. Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but this time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. *She was there just for me.*

My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be *my* support—to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do. The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God's presence, helping me know *I was never alone.*

Although Mark and I chose to talk publicly about his condition, my Stephen Ministry relationship was completely confidential. I knew I could share anything with her, and that's where it would stay.

Mark's illness progressed rapidly—ten weeks of treatment, followed by six weeks of hospice, and then his passing. My needs changed as I went from being wife to being caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails. Through it all, my Stephen Minister's love and support continued. She was there for me at every stage of my journey. It was never easy, but my Stephen Minister helped me through the most difficult moments of my life.

I really can't say enough about how much I appreciate my church's Stephen Ministry. The compassionate, consistent, and confidential support of my Stephen Minister was so important in helping me cope—and then begin to heal.

### STEPHEN LEADERS

Pastor Hartwig	338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse	351-7059
Kathy Schweer	466-3084
Kevin Sellers	631-8924

## Does God want us on the Sidewalk?



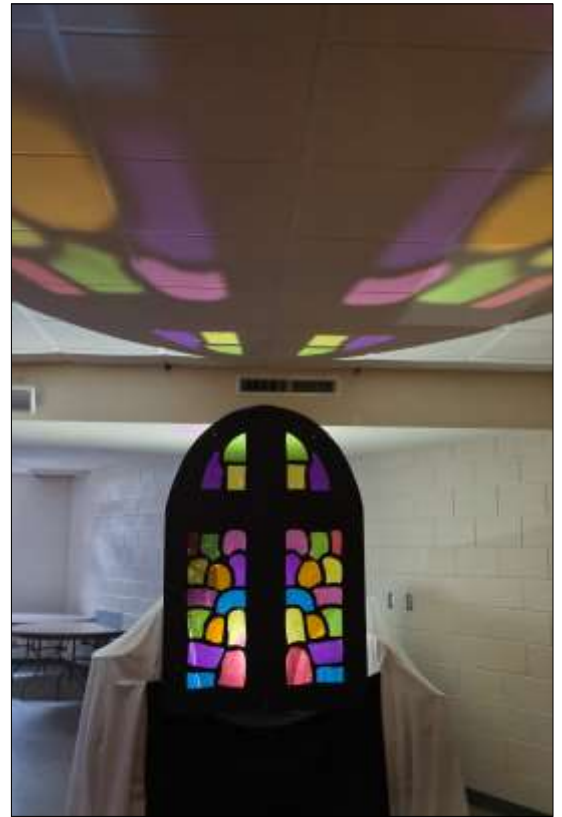
It's Thursday. It's cold outside. I am tired. I will probably be the only one out there. Seriously, God – Do You care if I go today? What would You say, God, if I just skipped the sidewalk today? If I could just know how You really felt about me being out there praying, trying to help and warn people, it would be a big help to me. Some days I feel like I am just a watchman, watching cars and people come and go.

Watchman, that is what God called the prophet Ezekiel and in Chapter 33 Ezekiel writes:

*"Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them... 'hear the word I speak and give them warning from Me. When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you will surely die. And you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.'"*

*The sidewalk is our "warning track". By God's Grace, out there on the sidewalk, praying, helping and warning the people whom God loves deeply; we live out God's will and reach out with His Love to those who need it so very much. God knows that after hours of watching and praying on the sidewalk, it is difficult, it is necessary, to stay strong and to reach out to people with a love-filled warning that God has a better plan for their life and the life of their child. Help me, God, to be a concerned, loving watchman that speaks the Good News Gospel on the sidewalk.*

***"Be on Guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be Courageous. Be Strong.  
Let all that you do, be done in Love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14***



**PRAYER WALK**  
April 13, 2022





**MARCH  
27th**



**Character Actors:**

**Mark Wilson as "John the Beloved"  
Kevin Sellers as "Pontius Pilate"  
Erica Watkinson as "Mary mother of Jesus"  
Vicar Kyle Lewis as "Judas the Betrayer"  
Abby Ghabel as "Woman at the well"  
Kara/Emma Hartwig as "The Widow's Mite"**

Who Am I?





# *Easter Egg Hunt 2022*



*The hunt is on!*



## *Easter Color*

*Blessed with beautiful colors at the foot of the cross. Thank you to all who brought them in.*

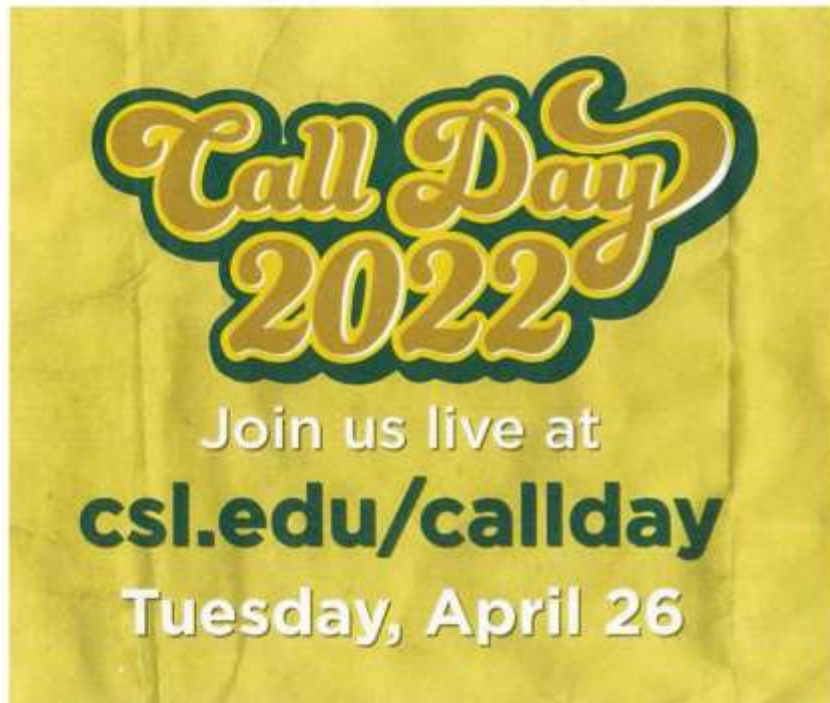


*Thank you ladies for arranging them!*

# Steins at the Sem

*A somewhat-regular account of the Stein family's time at Concordia Seminary*

## Call Day is near!



Don's courses this final semester are almost entirely electives. That is a very good thing, because if they were not classes he picked, he would have a difficult time paying attention. Call Day is near!

The day the Steins find out where they will be placed is less

than a month away! As you can imagine, the excitement is high in the Stein household.

You are all invited to join the Steins for the Call Service, which will begin at 7:00 PM on April 26. Catch the livestream here:

<https://www.csl.edu/callday>

### A Few More Classes

What is Don studying?  
See page 2.

### For previous editions of Steins at the Sem

[CLICK HERE](#)

## What the Steins are up to...

- Penny turned two years old! Can you believe it?!
- Beth & Lily sang a duet of "As the Deer..." for church. Listen to their lovely voices [HERE](#) (singing starts at 17:30).
- Don & Emily had a date night at the Seminary's Masquerade Ball.
- After several postponements due to weather, the seminary Life Team was finally able to hold a panel discussion on caring for those who suffer miscarriage. Don and Emily served on the panel with another couple.
- Don & Emily had a meal and social time with Don's class at Dr. Mart Thompson's home while the kids got to play with friends on campus!
- The Steins visited two churches in the St. Louis area.
- Emily's parents came for visits.
- The Steins visited friends in Missouri for dinner and games.
- Don joined the entire fourth-year class in visiting the International Center (LCMS Headquarters) to learn more about the work done there and how it supports the mission of the church at large.
- Don organized a theological discussion between the Seminary and the local Roman Catholic seminary on the role of the Early Church Fathers in our theology today. It will take place April 26, and may be broadcast on publicly— stay tuned!



# A Few More Classes

Thanks to full schedules the first few years of seminary, Don's final semester is nearly all electives. Here's what he's studying.

## HISTORICAL



Pastors simply cannot proclaim the future of the church if they are ignorant of its past. This is true both at the congregational level, and at every level above it.

Historical courses teach where the church has been, so we can know where it is going.

**Global Lutheranism (HIS-551)** Did you know that the largest Lutheran church body in the world is in Africa? That means the average practicing Lutheran ain't eating lutefisk in Ann Arbor, but legume stew in Addis Ababa! This seven-week course explores the world's Lutheran churches and their contributions to theology.

**Demonology (HIS-599)** Given the nature of the topic, this course is an independent study with Dr. Joel Elowsky by special approval from the Registrar's Office and the Provost. It is an historical survey of Christian approaches to spiritual warfare, including prayer, fasting and exorcism, especially by the early Desert Fathers, and tracking through the modern day.

## SYSTEMATICS



Systematics is the study of the Christian framework (or system) for understanding the world. Classes include significant reading, lecture, and writing

**Civil Affairs (SYS-522)** This class looked at the relationship between Church and State from various

perspectives, and how Christians—especially in America—might remain faithful to God in both the civil and churchly realms. After all, God rules all things... including both Church and State!

## PRACTICAL

The Practical courses are exactly what they sound like: practical. They equip future pastors with tools to serve the people around them, such as: how to counsel and give "mental health first aid," how to train up leaders, balance a budget, manage a classroom and Don's favorite—preach!



**Formation Lab (PRA-342)** This course is more conversation than class. Led by a faculty advisor, students are broken up into five-person "Winkels" (the German word for "corner") where they discuss daily life and spirituality. One part support group, another part mentorship, all parts Christian brotherhood, it's an important piece of pastoral formation.

**Pastoral Leadership & Theology (PRA-517)** This semester-long course explores the day-to-day aspects of pastoral care for a whole congregation, and the theological rationale involved in that care. It is front-loaded with lots of reading and reports, but after Call Day, the focus of the course shifts to preparing for a pastor's specific congregation. A new pastor-elect familiarizes himself with the congregation through his assigned Call Documents.

**Christianity & Literature (PRA-562)** This course looked at how *good* Christian literature—and art in general—is not necessarily overtly religious, but points to grace in more subtle ways. The Collected Words of Flannery O'Connor served as the primary textbook.

## EXEGETICAL

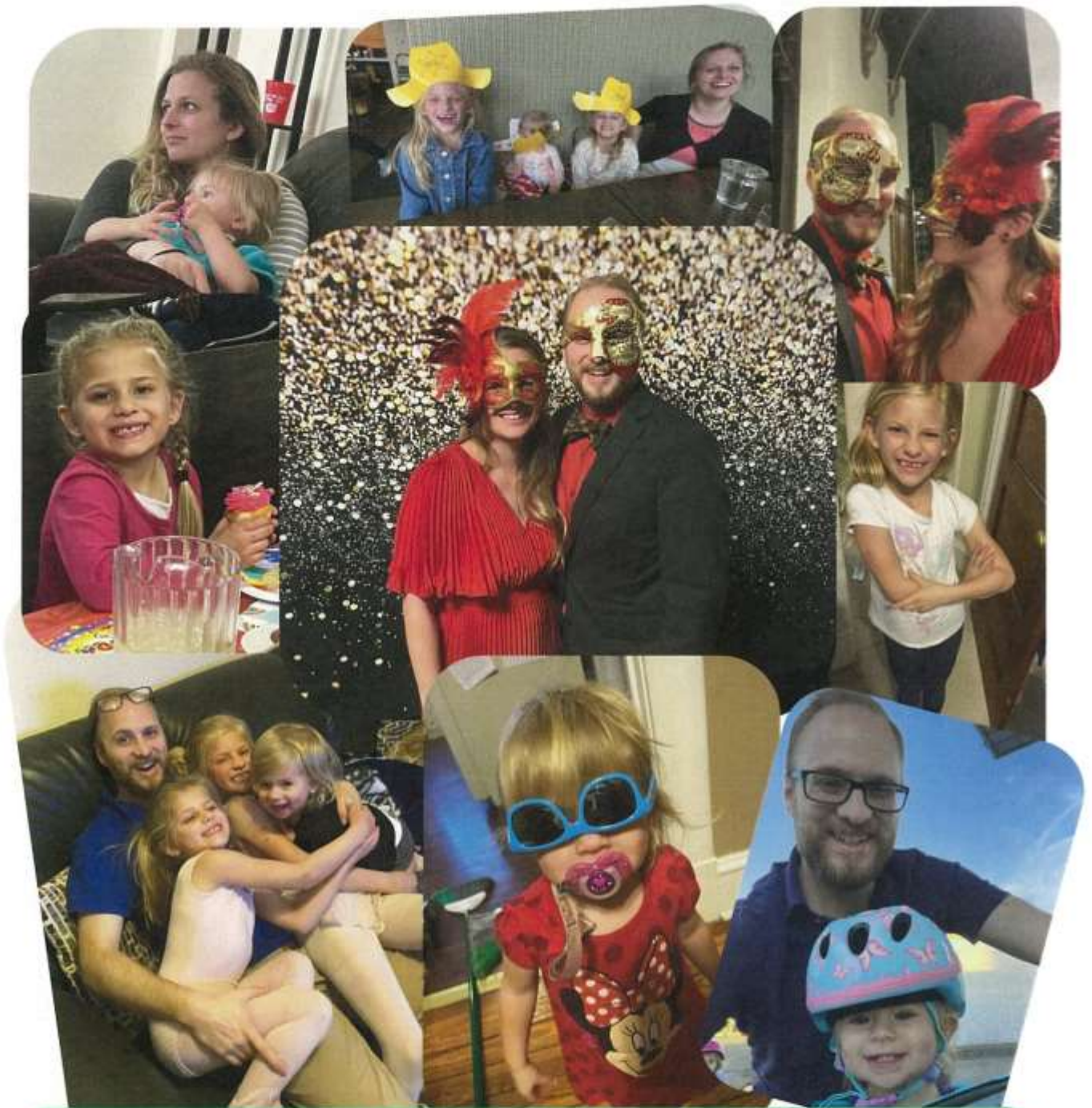
Exegetical courses consist of 'readings' in a specific portion of the Scriptures. Students translate large sections of Greek or Hebrew text, and write papers outlining various interpretations of difficult passages in order to apply them to life.



**Hebrew & Greek Labs (EXH-341)** These simple pass/fail courses are not for credit, but nonetheless required. They exist to keep language skills sharp.

**Wisdom Literature (EXE-535)** This seven-week course explores those "fortune cookie" nuggets of wisdom from poetic books like Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. In addition to writing papers, translating and taking quizzes, there is also a devotional component. Students are required to read the book of Ecclesiastes in their daily devotions.

**Revelation (EXE-528)** This seven-week course studied one of the most misunderstood books in all of Scripture. Instead of doom and gloom about the end of all things, Revelation actually points to a beautiful promise of restoration—fulfilled in Jesus Christ.



## Thank you...

...to everyone who has given us support of every kind. Your prayers and encouragement mean the world to us. Please be sure to let us know how we can pray for you, too:

[steido01@gmail.com](mailto:steido01@gmail.com)  
[rasmem01@gmail.com](mailto:rasmem01@gmail.com)

102 S. Railway St.  
 Mascoutah, IL 62258

Gift cards for Amazon (books!) and Schnucks (food!) are always appreciated. If you are moved to assist us financially, we ask that you please do not withhold from your normal tithing; your neighbor is your first priority.

So your generosity can be recognized with a tax credit, we recommend giving through your church, our home church (Mt. Olive), or the Seminary:

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
 Attn: Stein Seminary Fund  
 2001 N. Alpine Rd.  
 Rockford, IL 61107

OR  
 Concordia Seminary  
 Don Stein P000015255  
 801 Seminary Place

\*\*\*Please be sure to include Don's name and P-number (see above) on checks to the Seminary, or your gift will not be credited to the Steins!

# PANCAKE DAY

March 5, 2022



486 served  
\$7,089 raised  
\$3,470 through ORLC  
\$3,619 to CommUnity directly





Rev. Kurt Mews and family were special guests at Our Redeemer's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

LIVING WITH CHRIST  
1957 2022  
65 Years  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Jesse City, Iowa



Celebrating 65 Years  
April 3, 2022



Pastor Timothy Zimmermann, speaker



Pastor Hartwig

Rev. Kurt Mews  
Guest Preacher  
Former DCE



Kitchen Crew



# Jambo

Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya April 2022



orientation meeting for those who will be going on internship at the end of this semester. There are thirty of them this time. The evangelist and deaconess students do a three month internship and the pastoral students do six months. They will do three this summer, return for a year of classes and do three next summer. Vance will assign faculty members to visit each one.

The students go back to their home churches for the internships. This time they are from eight different countries and nine different church bodies.

In May, the current interns will return to campus for "debriefing" about their experiences. The pastoral students among them finish some classes during a summer quarter. Then this group will graduate in September along with those in the new group who will finish their internship

by that time.

*Please pray for us,* praising God for sending workers into his fields, thanking Him for the students who are finishing their studies, and asking Him to give these students all the material and spiritual blessings they need for their work.

## Training at Retreat

Our Africa team spring training retreat was in Egypt this year, on the desolate shore of the Red Sea. Unlike the Israelites, we did not retreat into the sea, although some did splash in it a bit. This is a time for those who work together here and their families to see each other in person.

Our presenter was Dwight Shettler from Ambassadors of Reconciliation, an

LCMS service organization which helps people and congregations with personal reconciliation in conflict situations. Our training included learning how to coach others in resolving conflict.

The retreat also included devotions, which we took turns leading and closed with a service including Holy Communion.

*Please pray for us,* praising God for our various co-workers, thanking Him for preventing and protecting us from disaster and asking Him to make all that each of us do to be a blessing to His church.



## Preparing Interns

As part of his role as Field Education Officer, Vance held an

## The End is Near

Time is flying and the semester is already half over. Students have taken midterm tests known as CATs (Continuing Assessment Tests) and now Vance is busy preparing final

exams. They have to be “moderated” and approved by the rest of the faculty before they are given.

Vance has learned his teaching assignments for next semester, so he will need to begin preparing for them as soon as he has time. He will be teaching Homiletics (preaching) I and II again. He is teaching three new classes. One is Worship, one is Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and the other is Catechism. That is something he has taught many times before.

*Please pray for us*, praising God for all the truths he has given us to share, thanking Him for what the students have learned so far, and asking Him to help both Vance and the students be well prepared and effective.

## ***Bible reflection***

My devotion for our team retreat in Egypt was based on the story of Jesus’ “flight to Egypt” as a baby, one of the few times in the Bible that people were actually told to go there.

Other times that people went to Egypt were because of fear, such as Abraham and Jacob who both went because of fear of famine and those who went because of fear of some enemy. Also because of their fears, they did wrong things hurting others.

Others in the Old Testament, such as Joseph and Jeremiah, were taken to Egypt because of the fears of other people that led them to do wrong. Maybe we can say that Egypt is a symbol of fear that leads to doing wrong to others. A common reaction to fear is fight or flight.

Jesus also went to Egypt because of the fear of another, Herod. But the reason Jesus went everywhere he did was to be with us, including when we are in a state of fear or being hurt because of the fears of others. It is because Jesus is with us in all things that we do not need to fight or flee but can have peace and respond to others with peace and peacemaking.

*Please pray for us*, being with us in every time and place, thanking Him for Jesus’ suffering for and with us and asking Him to free us from all fear and fill us with his peace.

## ***Culture Contrasts***

Even when we are both speaking English, it is often difficult to understand others here. One reason is that a way of showing respect is speaking softly. Some students, especially the women, are so respectful, you can’t hear them at all!

But even when heard clearly, the English here can be misunderstood because of words that are used differently. We already knew that in British English, which is the pattern here, a car’s hood is a “bonnet” and the trunk is a “boot.”

When a student says they are “revising” their class notes, they don’t mean they are changing them but what we would call “reviewing.” A meeting to “moderate” something is not about toning it down but simply agreeing on changes. If a student is “outside” it does not just mean out of doors but off campus. If a sick student says they are feeling better “somehow” it doesn’t mean they don’t know why but “somewhat” better. The list goes on.

## ***People wonder...***

*Was it really hot in Egypt?*

When we returned from our retreat in Egypt and people here asked how it was, we mentioned that it was amazingly barren, just sand and rocks, if you get away from the Nile which is used for irrigation.

So, picturing the desert, people asked if it was really hot. Actually, we were surprised how cold it was. We had looked at the weather and knew that since it is a ways north of the equator, about even with Florida, it would be cooler than here this time of year. But, maybe because of the low humidity, it was colder than we expected. Vance ended up doing his Minnesota thing, wearing two pair of

pants and several shirts on top of each other along with our jackets.

*If you wonder about a question*, email [vance.becker@lcms.org](mailto:vance.becker@lcms.org)

*Please pray for us*, praising God for the wonderful variety in all He has created, thanking Him for daily and richly providing for all our needs and asking Him to show us what we should be doing day by day.

**Contact us at the address below to let us know how we can be praying for you too.**

## ***Connect with us.***

Email us at [vance.becker@lcms.org](mailto:vance.becker@lcms.org) & [linda.becker@lcmsintl.org](mailto:linda.becker@lcmsintl.org), or send us postal mail at the Mission Central address below.

Help expand our network by liking [vance.becker.lcms](https://www.facebook.com/vance.becker.lcms) on facebook and sharing it and this newsletter with friends. Let us know about yourself and prayer requests. We will pray for you too.

## ***Financial support***

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which is not just an office in St. Louis but the people and congregations. We are grateful for many generous people, for yearly & monthly gifts, and also single gifts.

A monthly or yearly gift is ideal, but a start-up gift is also very helpful.

- Checks written to LCMS with Becker/Kenya in the memo can be mailed to: *LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-66861* or *Mission Central, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105*,
- Give on-line at [www.lcms.org/givenow/becker](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/becker)
- or [missioncentral.us/becker](http://missioncentral.us/becker)
- Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

*Please pray for us*, praising God for daily providing out of Fatherly, goodness and mercy, thanking Him for those who are able to give generously, and asking Him to keep providing funds for this work.

# Easter in Preschool

Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller      Assistants, Kate Ramsey M/W/F, Sara Cross T/TH  
Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949    [www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org](http://www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org)    [preschool@ourredeemer.org](mailto:preschool@ourredeemer.org)  
*Our Redeemer Preschool where children play, learn, and grow in Jesus!*





# Children's Ministry

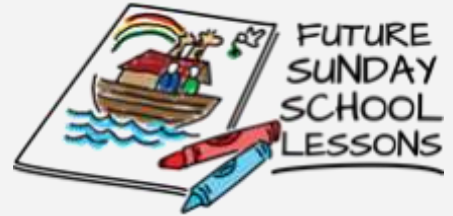
Birth—5<sup>th</sup> Grade



**Toddlin' age** — 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

9:20 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.

*Invite your friends and come learn about Jesus!*



April 24	Luke 15	Lost-and-Found Wonders—Jesus Seeks the Lost
May 1	John 9	The Seeing Sign—Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind
May 8	John 11:1-44	A Resurrection Sign—Jesus Raises Lazarus
May 15	<i>Graduation Breakfast all ages gather in the Fellowship Hall</i>	
May 22	<i>Sunday School Sunday            Kids will speak at the last of early worship and the beginning of late worship            Pastor teaches all in the Fellowship Hall</i>	
May 29	<i>Memorial Day Weekend—No Classes</i>	

## KIDS CLUB

4 year olds — 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Wednesday nights

7:00 pm Kids Club/Midweek



**Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lesson: Kid's Club Night & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spiritual Growth Event**

*Join us for Midweek Meal, Kids will sing songs before Spiritual Growth Event, then sit with parents.*



# Youth

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

May

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	25	26	27	28	29	30

DATE	EVENT	TIME
4/27	<i>Spiritual Growth Event</i> <i>Spiritual Growth Reception</i>	6:45pm 8pm
5/1	<i>Confirmation Sunday</i>	10:30am
5/15	<i>Graduation Breakfast</i>	9:20am
5/22	<i>Sunday School Sunday</i>	9:20am

## Spring Confirmation Retreat April 22-24



St. Louis  
Confirmation  
Retreat



## Spiritual Growth Event



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students have been preparing for the **Spiritual Growth Event** which will be held on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Preparation for the Spiritual Growth Event is more than just studying for **questioning**.

**Confirmation Verse** — Each student chooses a Bible verse to be his/her Confirmation verse.

**Paper** — Once the students have chosen their verse, then they write a short paper about it. They write about where their verse is found in the Bible, who wrote that book of the Bible and an explanation of why they chose their verse. During the Spiritual Growth Event, each student reads their paper aloud to the congregation.

**Banner** — Each 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmand also creates a banner with their Confirmation verse on it. The style and themes of the banners are unique and usually reflect the interests of the student. The banners are displayed on the back walls of the Sanctuary beginning on the night of the Spiritual Growth Event.



**Reception** — The evening ends with a reception in the Fellowship Hall where the Our Redeemer family celebrates with the Confirmands. During the reception, the High School Youth present handmade, personalized cards to each of the Confirmands along with a special gift. The high school students also give a short talk encouraging the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to remain active at church after they've been confirmed.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be confirmed on **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** which will be on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

Office: 338-5626 Fax: 338-9171 Website: <http://www.ourredeemer.org> Preschool: 338-3949  
 Prayer Chain: 351-5297 or [prayerchain@ourredeemer.org](mailto:prayerchain@ourredeemer.org) Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF &amp; EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF &amp; EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor <a href="mailto:bhartwig@ourredeemer.org">bhartwig@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director <a href="mailto:preschool@ourredeemer.org">preschool@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Kyle Lewis, Vicar <a href="mailto:vicar@ourredeemer.org">vicar@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator <a href="mailto:redeeper@ourredeemer.org">redeemer@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)
Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant <a href="mailto:preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org">preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool)	Sarah Gabel, Bookkeeper <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org">bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)
Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator <a href="mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org">youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator <a href="mailto:smallgroups@ourredeemer.org">smallgroups@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)
Louise Klopp, Director Choirs/Properties <a href="mailto:choirdirector@ourredeemer.org">choirdirector@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Marilyn Paetz, Organist <a href="mailto:organist@ourredeemer.org">organist@ourredeemer.org</a>	351-4262 (home)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant <a href="mailto:consultant@ourredeemer.org">consultant@ourredeemer.org</a>	319-331-3242 (cell)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology <a href="mailto:technology@ourredeemer.org">technology@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)
		Sheena White, Preschool Assistant <a href="mailto:preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org">preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool)

### 2022 Board of Elders

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
David Bohnsack	319-430-2054
Tim Eick	248-514-2881
Rick Gienapp	319-331-7425
Ryan Haack	319-325-7915
Skip Kempnich	319-351-5297
Eric Kooker	319-339-0175
Chad Pence (Chair)	319-321-5686
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152

### 2022 Board of Directors

President	Arlan Thompson	319-338-2938
Vice President	Ben Weis	319-936-6850
Secretary	Barb Schanbacher	319-351-3998
Treasurer	Kari Kibby	319-573-4127
Board of Elders	David Bohnsack	319-430-2054
Properties	Dave Yansky	319-621-7694
At Large	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
	Marilyn Albright	319-430-8129
	<i>Vacancy</i>	

### DEADLINES

**Reflections** (printed weekly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) each Wednesday by 5:00 pm

**Beacon Newsletter & Church Activities Calendar** (printed monthly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) by noon on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### RADIO

**Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio**—WMT 600 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 6:30 am, and KXEL 1540 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. For more information on Lutheran Hour Ministries go to [www.LHM.org](http://www.LHM.org).

### VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has a strong, caring ministry with children and youth. To promote the safest and most secure environment possible all employees and volunteers, both new and existing, undergo a background screening before working with younger members. Performing background checks provides safeguards and peace of mind to our staff, volunteers, parents, youth, and children.



## **The Children**

(Room for all)

Luke 18:15-17

**Laughter, tickling, pushing, giggling,  
Squeezing, hugging; lots of wriggling...  
Sticky kisses, stickier hands,  
Grimy faces, a babe's wet pants...**

**Crying, screaming, demanding ones;  
A shy child that everyone shuns...**

***“Come ahead, there's room on My lap.  
In My arms you can take your nap.”***

**Noisy shouting, “Lift me, me, me!”  
(Disciples) “But we can't have this, don't you see?  
You're not in the shade; it's so hot!”**

***“Let them come and forbid them not!”***

**~Carol Schuldt**