Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Things are moving quickly. School is in full swing, Summer has ended, and we are moving into Fall, and the Church Year draws to a close.

Many love the changing of the leaves, the crisp morning air, the smell of pumpkins and apple cider. Others already wish for warmer days. Some are already eagerly awaiting Christmas and wondering how soon they can begin playing Christmas music and decorating.

As we all look ahead to the coming holidays or look back to the warmth of summer and blooming flowers, it is important to realize where we are right now.

Homecoming has just happened, the parade has gone by, and many hotdogs have been served and eaten.

And just like how the year keeps moving and the seasons keep changing, so does the church year. Summer and the accounts of Jesus' ministry and miracles have been read, the season of Advent and preparation for the coming Savior approaches, but right now, we too are in a season of homecoming.

In our rush to look ahead or our desire to look back, we often miss the season we are in now. A season of homecoming. A season where we can focus on the life that is to come.

We say every week in the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds:

- "I believe in... the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." (Apostle's)
- "I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." (Nicene)

It is good for us to pause here as we near the end of the church year and reflect on this promise of the resurrection and eternal life. We truly will be raised again; we will be made new – physically present and living in the new creation. Living with God for all eternity.

So often, we live looking ahead. Looking ahead to the next get together, to the next holiday, and to the next big church event. But let us pause and think of the life to come:

"A great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9-10)

A life without sin, a life without pain and disease, a life we can look forward to because of the promise of salvation secured for us by Christ Jesus and given to us by the Holy Spirit.

This is a life we can celebrate looking forward to. We will be gathered together with all Christians to worship and live with our Lord and Savior. What a glorious homecoming we look forward to.

In Christ, Vicar Boester



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

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

O Lord, grant that we would rejoice in the light of Christ and His salvation, and that sinners would find refuge in His mercy and comfort in His forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, embolden our congregation and all sister churches throughout the world to confess the truth steadfastly and to witness boldly to our only Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, bless this nation and all people in their rightful callings. Grant that we may serve our neighbors in love, and that all authorities would exercise their callings with humility and wisdom on behalf of the defenseless. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm [especially Connie Bailey (Lorrie Bailey's aunt), Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), David Caplin (Lillian Moyer's son-in-law), Michelle Taylor-Copeland (friend of Kristina Duncan), Clint Fult (nephew of Robert Siems), Titus Hanneman (nephew of Kate Ramsey), Emma Haugen (Friend of Gwen Enokian), Patsy Heinitz, Gabe Hundley (grandson of Karen Abernathy), Dora Jacobson (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), Hazel Jones (Granddaughter of Danny Fuhrmeister), Todd Jones (Barb & Ron Jones' son), Shirley Losby, Norma Miller (Twyla Freeman's aunt), Julie Pratt-Mullenkamp (Cousin of Ruth Varney), Aaron Raschke (brother of Ruth Varney), John Robinson, Carol Simpson (Kara Hartwig's mother), Reece Ullerich, Karen Warner, Brian Westphal, Lynne Westphal, Mark Wilson, and Beth Wu (Schuldt's relative)]. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, You instituted marriage between one man and one woman. We give you thanks for the 19 (Sept. 24) years of marriage you have granted *Brad and Melissa Mullane*. Bless them and all husbands and wives as you strengthen the love between them and their love for you. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all couples engaged to be married, that God would clothe all brides and grooms in the forgiveness of Christ, so that they can forgive each other as they have been forgiven, [we especially pray for Leah Born and Aaron McDowell [married this weekend]. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, grant that, in Christ, we may seek You while You may be found and call upon You while You are near, forsaking all wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have promised to hear us, so we come to You with our silent prayers... [We pause for a moment of silent prayer.]

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for You have written THE STORY OF EVERYTHING – from Genesis to the Last Day that we may know Your Son, who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun 9/24 Worship Service 8:00am

Adult Bible Class 9:20am Sunday School 9:20am Worship Service 10:30am

Confirmation Orientation 11:45am

Mon 9/25 Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Chamber Singers 6:00pm Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm

Tues 9/26 SM-Small Group/Marlene 6:00pm

SM-Large Group/Marcia 6:45pm

Al-Anon 7:00pm

Wed 9/27 TOPS 8:00am

Emerson Point 2:00pm Midweek Classes 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm Adult Midweek 7:00pm

Thurs 9/28 Comfort Tiers 9:00am

Al-Anon 7:30pm

Fri 9/29 ***

Sat 9/30 Men's Bible Study

Worship Service 5:30pm

LWML Zone Event

Sun 10/1 Worship Service 8:00am

Adult Bible Class 9:20am Sunday School 9:20am Worship Service 10:30am



FLOWERS TODAY

Today's flowers (September 24) for the altar are provided by Brad and Melissa Mullane for their 19th wedding anniversary..



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE & SNACKS

This Sunday's (September 24) coffee and snacks are being provided between the early service and Sunday School by the Schwartings & Mullanes. Donations will go towards the continued mission efforts. Come join us for a little fellowship before heading off to Bible Class and Sunday School.

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
Communion: September 30,
October 1, 14, 15, 28, 29

Sunday School 9:20am—In Person
Adult Bible Study 9:20am—Fellowship Hall/ZOOM

Bible Study/Lunch Bunch meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:00am with lunch following

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 or
Louise Klopp: choirdirector@ourredeemer.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Help us celebrate Socktober Oct. 1-31 TAKING NEW
SOCK DONATIONS
FOR THE MONTH
OF OCTOBER
SOCK BOX LOCATED
IN THE NARTHEX



October 4 Bible Class 11:00am Lunch 12:00pm Fellowship Hall





6th Grade Retreat October 7 5:30pm Here at Church









October 18 Bible Class 11:00am Lunch 12:00pm Fellowship Hall

NEW MEMBER BRUNCH October 15, 12:00pm Fellowship Hall



7th & 8th Grade Retreat October 20 6:30pm Here at Church



October 26, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall Scooby Doo (PG)

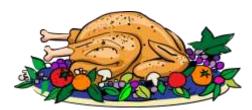


BASICS OF THE FAITH October 27—7:00pm October 28—9:30am

Sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Counter



October 29, 4:00pm, Parking Lot



Prime Time Dinner November 5, 12:00pm Fellowship Hall For the 60 and Over Gang

PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22

Sign-up Sheet is on the Welcome Counter

Birthdays

Sun. 9/24	Jay Happel
Mon. 9/25	Twyla Freeman, Bradley Kimball, Melissa Lenz, Charles Murphy
Tues. 9/26	Michael Gerholdt, Malinda Wade
Wed. 9/27	Melanie Breza, Terri Deetz, Bob DuVall, Katie Severt
Thurs. 9/28	Beth Benson, Cael Caven, Krista Farnsworth, Stacey Sexton, Robert Sexton
Fri. 9/29	Mark Greve, Kyle Kelley, Kyle Mullet, Dennis Peer, Todd Saterfield, Addison Spiekermeier
Sat. 9/30	Jackson Caylor, Nathan Kibby

Stewardship—September 16/17, 2023

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Recorded Service 9/16	20	Contributions	\$10,446.00
Sat. 9/16 In Person/LIVE STREAM 5:30pm	30	Monthly needs for budget	\$66,114.00
Sun. 9/17 In Person/LIVE STREAM 8:00am	105		
Sun. 9/17In Person/LIVE STREAM 10:30am	205		
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	360	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	45/42

MISSION	September
Iowa District East	\$3,333.33
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$3,583.33
Common Fund	\$250.00
Lutheran Hour	\$250.00
St. Paul's Chapel	\$375.00
MONTH TOTAL	\$4,458.33
CommUnity Crisis Center	***
Lutheran For Life	\$7,020.00
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	\$200.00
Lutheran World Relief	7,355.09
TOTAL	\$19,033.42



Membership Changes and Official Acts

Affirmation of Faith	
Bryan & Amber Woods	9-1-2023

Building Healthy Families: From a recent CDC report on Alzheimer's Disease: Significant increases in Alzheimer's deaths coupled with an increase in the number of persons with Alzheimer's dying at home have likely added to the burden on family members or other unpaid caregivers. Caregivers might benefit from interventions such as education, respite care, and case management that can lessen the potential burden of caregiving and can improve the care received by persons with Alzheimer's. You think?? Anyone who has loved and cared for a family member suffering from this terrible disease would say Amen to that obvious conclusion. Who in your world is caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease? They likely won't ask you for help but help anyway. Do yard work, clean leaves out of the gutters, prepare food, or give them the gift of time away while you sit with their loved one. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 Lutheran Family Service www.LutheranFamilyService.org

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOTERS MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2023

Call to order at 12:20 by President, Arlan Thompson.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Hartwig.

Pastor Hartwig:

Pastor Hartwig began with a presentation of this year's theme, STORY OF EVERYTHING, and how this theme impacts our daily lives in every way with our walk with Christ. The sermons and Bible classes will focus on this theme in the upcoming year.

In January, 2024, the congregation will embark on another 2 year reading of the Bible.

Marty Wenck:

Marty discussed the progress of the committee to examine the needs of the cross in front of church and possible options of an updated entrance. The committee has solicited expert opinions who feel the cross will not last more than 2 years. Concerns have arisen about the entrance to our church and possible future needs. The committee is addressing both of these issues. Meetings/opportunities will be scheduled in the next few months to solicit input from the congregation

Presentation of the slate of Officers, Committee Chairs for 2024:

MOTION—The Voters unanimously voted to accept the Slate of Officers and Committee Chairs as presented by the Nominating Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Schanbacher, Secretary

Board of Directors meeting, August 31, 2023

Opening devotion

Treasurer's Report:

Income and expenses are as expected and comparable to past. Current negative balance of 16K, YTD negative balance of 5K July income-57K, YTD income-435K

Board of Elders:

Elders approved 3 weeks of bereavement time for Pastor in July and 2 weeks of vacation coming up.

At-Large:

Education: Reports that all education programs of ORLC remain very active and busy.

VBS was very successful with great numbers of children and volunteers.

Outreach: Semisaurus was well attended. Faith Fun Fest was well attended and continues to be a popular event.

Preparing for City High homecoming parade.

(Continued on the next page)

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Education: Reports that all education programs of ORLC remain very active and busy.

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Outreach: Semisaurus was well attended. Faith Fun Fest was well attended and continues to be a popular event.

Preparing for City High homecoming parade.

Assimilation: Dinners for eight groups has been formed. A new member dinner will be held in October.

Properties:

Big tree at parsonage was removed and damage to sidewalk was repaired

Hole in garage wall was repaired

Tile on floor by AV control console was replaced and expanded

New carpet tiles were installed where pew was removed.

New microwave installed in the vicarage

Large shed cleaned out

Ongoing repair to chair legs in the Fellowship Hall

Freezer was donated by Harold Scheer

Snow removal is scheduled

Small shed roof replaced

Vicarage deck power washed and restrained

Vicarage abandoned water softener removed

Staff reports:

Pastor:

Josiah Coblentz is attending Fort Wayne Seminary and the seminary is suggesting our congregation support Josiah in the amount of \$4500 per year for tuition.

MOTION: The BOD unanimously voted to support Josiah in the amount suggested by the seminary.

The Nominating Committee is working to complete the slate of officers for 2024.

They still need a Vice-President candidate and Secretary.

FORO—there is a Panama trip coming up the last week in September for Pastor and Vicar. We support Our Redeemer Church in Panama. There is hope for a medical mission at the same time.

Vicar:

Attending many meetings and getting oriented to duties and activities.

Kaja:

VBS was very successful with great numbers of children and volunteers.

Pre-school—17 children on M-W-F, 11 children on T-Th. Four families are on scholarship.

School starts on September 5

Fourteen volunteers helped with playground cleanup

Kara:

Peach sale was successful with only a few boxes left out of 800.

Denise:

Bible classes have begun

Vicar Garrett's farewell lunch was very well attended.

Kudos:

The Board of Directors recognizes and thanks:

VBS sight leaders: Tiffany Roiseland, Ryan Haack, Chad Pence, Allison Haack, Crissy Pence, Kate Lothamer, Denise Schwarting, and all the volunteers who made VBS week a success.

Pre-school playground cleanup crew: Ben Weis, Pam Wilson, Brenda Johnson Kean Mueller, Luci Mueller, David-Kristin-Ellie-Mila Goedken, Byron-Whitney-Griggs-Bishop Tate. Thank you for helping with the clean-up in order to start the new school year.



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Mission Committee Christ said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations."

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

PANAMA

Mission Awareness Sunday Luncheon Sunday October 22nd

The Mission Committee will be hosting a luncheon with a guest speaker on Sunday October 22nd at Noon.

The Mission Committee is still working out the logistics for a short-term mission trip to Panama.

Updates will be published in the Beacon & the Reflections newsletters as information becomes available.



Panama is straight south of Miami



In the mountains of western Panama

Mission Committee Members

Denise Holida / Anita Nicholson / Val Penney / Bob Powers (Chairman Pro Tem)



Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

A BIBLICAL SOLUTION

Stephen Ministry provides a Biblical solution to caring for people who are hurting. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." Stephen Ministry helps congregations put these verses into action.

Laypeople are trained through 20 class sessions to provide emotional and spiritual care and support to congregation members. A foundational part of a Stephen Minister's training is learning to listen to care receivers as they share painful feelings, because Stephen Ministers may at times help people carry some of the most difficult feelings they will ever bear. In addition to listening, they learn and use many other skills, such as processing feelings, maintaining boundaries, confidentiality, assertive communication, praying, sharing scripture, and remaining process-oriented in the caring relationship.

RELYING ON GOD

A key part of Stephen Ministers' care is that they rely on God for results, not themselves. You trust in God to provide results. When you, as a caregiver, realize that God is the curegiver, you are freed from worry and false expectations. Instead, you can concentrate on creating the best situation for growth to occur.

It takes pressure off the care receiver too. It provides them freedom to rely on God to help them grow and change as you meet together faithfully each week.

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Stephen Ministry caring relationships typically last from a few months to one or two years, depending on the circumstances. Men are matched with men, and women are matched with women. Stephen Ministers meet once a week with their care receivers for about an hour. The one-to-one pairing with a Stephen Minister is free and confidential.

REWARDS OF BEING A STEPHEN MINISTER

The joy and satisfaction of participating in a meaningful ministry and the caregivers in this ministry. The friendship and support of the Christian community they develop in training and supervision. Personal growth through the training, service, and supervision. Enhanced relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and others. Greater interpersonal relationship skills that prove valuable at work and in other activities in life. Increase faith in God, dedication to Jesus, and enjoyment of their religious life.

Our next Stephen Minister training will start in mid-January 2024.

To get more information, you can plan to attend the informational session "Do You Want to be a Stephen Minister" on Sunday, December 3, immediately following the 10:30 Divine Service in Room 208/210 and/or you are welcome to speak with one of our Stephen Leaders.

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS
Pastor Hartwig 338-5626
Bill Benson 517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse 351-7059
Kevin Sellers 631-8924



A LITTLE

cutie pie 2

IS ON THE WAY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER TO CELEBRATE THIS NEW CHAPTER FOR

Emma & Nathan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH AT NOON OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH 2301 EAST COURT ST, IOWA CITY, IA RSVP TO KARA 319-855-2728

REGISTRY:

https://www.babylist.com/list/baby-reg-emma-clack



QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Rev. Dr. Brent Hartwig (319) 855-2521

bhartwig@ourredeemer.org

DEPARTURE PREFERENCE: □ Chicago, IL (ORD) □ Other: □ □ Land Only - I will be securing my own flights	
	a 9
Legal Name: First, middle and last as it appears	on your passport!
Title: Preferred Name:	
Ex: Mr Mrs Ms Rev Dr Fr	If different than above
Street Address:	
City / State / Zip:	
Main Phone: Area Code ()	
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Alt Phone: Area Code () (Select one) □ Home □ Cell □ Or	fice
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I prefer to have my correspondence sent to me via	email 🗆 OR mail [
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Rooming Options:	
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We would prefer a shared bed s	eparate beds
Please match me with a roommate (imagine wi	
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THE FINE PRINT ENROLLMENT IN AND PAYMENT OF YOUR DEPOSIT FOR THE TOUR, CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONDITIONS AND STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY.

INCLUDED IN PRICE:

1) Round trip airfare per brochure - deluxe motor coaches - First Class / Superior Class hotels — guided sightseeing — entrance fees to sites visited breakfast & dinner daily per brochure

2) Taxes and fuel charges totaling \$695 USD comprised of \$364.60 for fuel (subject to increase by airline up to 30 days prior to departure) and \$330.40 for taxes (including federal inspection fees for the U.S. Customs and Immigrations, international air transportation tax; agricultural tax; other per person taxes imposed by government entities; airport taxes and fees including the September 11th Security fee up to \$10 per person, passenger facility charges up to \$18 per person, federal domestic flight segment fees up to \$3.50 per segment and U.S. and International arrival and departure, and other government imposed fees up to \$300 per person).

3) Gratuities of \$160 for tour guide or cruise director, local host, driver, local guides, and/or ships' crew; gratuities on ferries, and cruise ships.

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

Not included in your package are passports, visas, COVID-19 tests, vaccinations, laundry, lunches, telephone, mini-bar, alcohol, other beverages, and food outside of the contracted tour operator menu as presented at a hotel or restaurant (these extra items will be billed to you before leaving the hotel, or restaurant), airport transfers on non-qualifying flights, porterage at airports, travel insurance, excess baggage fees, any fees or fuel surcharges imposed by the airlines after the date you register for your trip, and all other items not specifically mentioned.

A full deposit of \$500 per person is required at time of registration.

Credit cards are only accepted for the initial deposit. All other remaining payments must be made in the form of a check, including final payment. Final payment is due no later than 100 days price to do do. inal payment is due no later than 100-days prior to departure Registrations received after 100-days prior to departure must be accompanied by full payment. Registrations received between 90-75 days prior to departure are subect to a \$300 late fee.

Tour pricing is based on a minimum group size of 20 passengers to be valid. The following supplements may apply for smaller groups: 19-15 travelers. \$150 per person; 14-10 travelers, \$195 per person. If group size is less than 10 travelers, the tour may be canceled due to lack of participation. travelers, the tour may be canceled due to lack of participation.

If final (full) payment is not received by imagina Tours and Travel. LLC (hereafter referred to as imaginal 75-days prior to departure, you will be automatically cancelled from the tour and your initial deposit of \$500 will be forfeited and additional fees may apply. Imagina reserves the right to add a surcharge if the dollar declines by more than 2% against the shekel or euro based on foreign exchange rates in effect on date (06/15/23) when your tour was booked by

ACCOMMODATIONS:

rice is based on double occupancy (two persons sharing a room). When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. While imagine will try to match roommates, we cannot guarantee one will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 75 days prior to departure. If one is not available or ou request a single room, there will be a single room supplement charge of \$995 for the basic itinerary.

your tour leader/church. All payments are required in US Funds

ITINERARY & CHANGES:

Because airlines often change flight schedules after brochures are printed. because airlines often change flight schedules after prochures are printed, imagine reserves the right to shorten or lengthen the litinerary accordingly. You will be notified in writing when possible. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged \$195 per night/per person (single rooms \$225/night). Meals for extra nights are not included. Any changes and/or deviations from the program and/or departure city listed, by the passenger, must be provided in writing to imagine no later than 100-days prior to departure and any extra costs incurred will be billed to the assessment. any extra costs incurred will be billed to the passenger, All deviations are subject to a standard fee of \$150 plus any applicable airline fees. All tours are final at 70-days prior to departure. No changes and/or additions may be made to the tour after that time

LAND ONLY:

Land Only price is \$4,137 per person. Price does not include international flights. Land Only passengers may be responsible for transfers and/or additional overnights incurred by booking their own flights. We recommend you purchase a ticket which can be changed without large penalties, as the group's flights may change. Passengers changing from the regular tour to Land Only after 120 days prior to departure will be charged a fee of \$150 per person.

In order to keep prices low, imagine does not guarantee you will be on the most direct flights to your final destination, imagine also does not guarantee the group will be on the same flights, particularly if registering 100 days prior to departure. Flight routings are chosen by the airlines and not imagine. Airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded once issued. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class aboard IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10. or more flying together for entire itinerary. Imagine is unable to use individual frequent flyer points to upgrade or accept them as partial payment for air transportation. Deviations by the passenger, from the group's scheduled flights, could result in different routings/air carriers, Airline changes, if allowable, made by the passenger after final payment has been made, may incur additional fees.

FLIGHT TIMES:

All flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. imagine is not responsible for such changes or delays and does not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If making your own flight arrangements to a departure city or any other portion of your trip, we recommend you purchase a ticket which can be changed without large penalties. All passengers are responsible for reconfirming their flights with the airline 24 hours prior to departure.

PASSPORT:

Each passenger is responsible for making sure that they have a valid passport that has an expiration date at least six months after the date of return from their trip. A copy of your valid passport must be submitted to our office by 100 days prior to departure.

Applicable visas will be obtained by imagine for U.S. and Canadian Citizens only. All passengers who do not carry U.S. or Canadian Passports will be responsible for obtaining visas to the countries they are visiting, imagine is not responsible for non-U.S. & Canadian Passport holders.

TRIP RESCHEDULING:

imagine and/or Trip leader reserve the right to re-schedule the dates of the Trip to future dates TBD due to governmental action, pandemic, or other circumstances beyond their control. Should that occur, all travelers will be rebooked for the new dates. Travelers unable to travel on the new dates may cancel their participation and will be assessed a cancellation fee of up to \$300 per person, plus any additional penalties/fees imposed by ground operator(s). airlines, or other vendors. Travelers can transfer to another available tour up to one year from their original departure date.

CANCELLATION FEES:

Any passenger cancelling from the day of registration to 100 days prior to departure will be charged a \$300 non-refundable administrative fee per person plus any airline penalties, if applicable. You will also be charged a single room fee if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single room from 75 days prior until the date of departure

The following charges also apply: 99-75 days = \$500; 74-55 days = \$1950; 54-41 days = 75% of total cost; 40 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. All cancellations must be received in writing. On or after the day of departure there is no refund for any services not used. We strongly recommend you purchase travel insurance. If imagine cancels the tour due to lack of participation, there will be a charge of \$200 deducted from the amount refunded to each passenger for administrative fees plus any airline penalties if applicable. No changes may be made to the tour within 70-days of departure. as the tour is officially closed

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY:

impaine and its associated companies agree to provide the itinerary described in this brochure. This represents the entire agreement between the passenger and his agent, the travel agent, the tour host, and the tour operator. All prices, itineraries and schedules are subject to regulations and changes by acts of government, international agreement, and airline tariff adjustments, rules, and regulations. imagine reserves the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in the sole judgment of imagine, incapable of group travel. Except for the willful negligence of its direct employees, the tour operator assumes no liability or responsibility for any injuries, inconveniences, illness, irregularity, or incidental damages caused by circumstances beyond the control of the tour operator or by any person or reason whatsoever, including but not limited to events such as strikes, revolts, wars, natural disasters, pandemic, closures of airports or hotel, default or omission of any common or private carrier, or the fault, negligence, or omission of and by any third party providing services or facilities related to or included in this tour or any part thereof, or in arranging for the same, or the acts or omissions of the travel agent or the tour host. The conditions become a binding contract when your enrollment and payment are received and accepted by imagine. Florida law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of/or concerns regarding this brochure or your tour.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY:

By traveling on this tour you affirm that you are fit to participate in this tour and accept all risks to your safety and health. All travel involves risks, and travel to some countries, including Israel, involves a heightened risk to your health and safety, including risks from terrorism, criminal acts, and illness. You understand and freely accept these risks, and you generally and specifically release and hold harmless imagine and their officers, agents and employees from any liability and any claims for (i) any physical, mental, emotional or other injuries whatsoever that you may sustain related to this tour; (ii) delays, damages, illness, injuries or death, or for the loss of or damage to property, from any cause (including negligence) and however occurring, and (iii) any accident, illness, injury, damage, sickness, loss of personal property, delay, or other injury or claim of any kind related to or arising from strikes, armed conflicts, social or labor unrest or strikes/work stoppages, war or acts of war, terrorism or terrorist acts, acts of God, mechanical or construction failures or difficulties, diseases, local laws or acts of local or government authorities, criminal acts, weather or climatic conditions, volcanic eruption, earthquake, disruption of advertised schedules, refusal of visas, or any other causes beyond their direct control.

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Jambo Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya September 2023



Teaching in Rwanda

At the beginning of August, we visited Rwanda where Vance led a three-day seminar on worship for the pastors there. It was very well received and we enjoyed seeing several former students. One of them, Victor, a son of Bishop Serburikuko, translated for Vance's teaching.

We arrived the weekend before, in time to participate in a dedication of a building in a developing part of town that will be used for outreach to the community, children's ministry and worship as a congregation is started.

On the way back home, we



visited an intern, William, who is serving to help build up at a church in a poor suburb of Nairobi.

Please pray for us, praising God for His presence in our worship, thanking Him for those who join us in worship on earth and in heaven, and asking God to help grow in faith through the word and sacraments.

Visiting in Malawi

The last weekend of August, we visited Malawi where we saw three interns in three days. Then we hurried on a two day trip home as school had already started.



Near Lilongwe, the capital, we visited Elinat who is helping to start a church in a high-population poor neighborhood. In two months they have seventeen families and a large group of children who enjoy coming every day for Elinat to teach them.

Outside of Blantyre, one of the largest cities, we visited Winess who is serving his home congregation as the former pastor has gone to start



the mission at Lilongwe! This church, which was damaged in last year's hurricane, welcomed new members that Sunday.

The same afternoon, we visited Constance who is also serving her



home congregation, doing women's and children's ministry. She and her sons live there with

her father, Bishop Maganga.

We noticed that none of the churches had glass in the windows or benches. The people sat on the floor. But the choirs were great and sang as they marched to the front and then back to their seats.

Please pray for us, praising God for the gift of pastors, evangelists and deaconesses, thanking Him for raising up new workers, and asking Him to help both them and their churches to continue growing.

Back to the Books



The new semester has now begun. Vance is teaching Catechism for new evangelist and deaconess students and some of the same women in Christian Doctrine class. He is again teaching homiletics (preaching) I and II. He has a very large class for Worship I. Linda will come to part of the class each week to help them learn to sing the liturgy.

We had a parade of students to our front porch on the day we handed out a Bible Study Handbook provided by St. James Lutheran Church, Chicago, The Lutheran Study Bible, provided by a special LCMS fund, and a pocket handbook with resources for visits.

Please pray for us, praising God for the power of His word, thanking Him for the privilege of speaking it for Him, and asking Him to make us wise and effective teachers and students.

Culture Contrast

Vance was one of the readers for the required research paper of a student from South Sudan. The topic was the effect of family culture on the growth of the church. As is common in this part of the world, having more than one wife is accepted and, in fact, the more wives a man has, the more status he has in the community. The paper pointed out that this leads some families to leave the church if the man becomes able to afford more wives.

A bride price, mostly in the form of cows, is paid, with the value of the wife depending on factors such as her family's status and her skills and education. The man's whole extended family helps to provide it. If this price is not paid, the children are not considered to belong to the father. It the couple separates, it must be repaid. If the man dies, the woman, who now belongs to his family, must marry one of his relatives, as in the Old Testament. This means that even if she is a Christian, she may be forced to marry one who is not.

Please pray for us, praising God for His all-giving love, thanking Him for the gift of families, and asking Him to use families as the place to grow children in the faith.

People wonder...

How do other East African countries compare to Kenva?

As we remember our few months in Tanzania during Covid lock-down, it seems that the culture, economy and development are similar to Kenya. Swahili is the common language and English is not familiar.

In Rwanda, neither English nor Swahili are as well known as in Kenya. The common language is Kinwarwanda. The cities seem prosperous and the countryside poor, as here, and it is impressively clean.

In Malawi, English is more known but not Swahili. The economy is quite poor and right now there is a fuel shortage.

The food in these countries is quite similar to here. Also like here, they are quite safe and stable compared to the current situation in much of West Africa.

Please pray for us, praising God for loving those of every nation, thanking Him for providing for us so richly, and asking Him to give good weather so that the farmers and others here can prosper.

If you wonder about a question, email vance.becker@lcms.org

Simplified Song

Rock of all time, split for me, To your hiding place, I flee, For the water and the blood From your deep cut side, which flowed.

Are the double cure for sin, From its guilt and pow'r within.

Nothing done by my own hands Can do all your law demands; If I try until I drop, If my tears would never stop, Sin's debt I can never pay; Your work is the only way.

Letting loose of all I own, I will hold your cross alone. I come naked; cover me; I come helpless; love for free; Dirty, to your stream come I; Wash me Savior, or I die.

While I take this life's short breath, When my eyes then close in death, When I rise at last to meet You upon your judgment seat, Rock of all time, split for me, Kept within you may I be.

If you get this newsletter by U.S. mail but also by email and don't need the paper copy. Let us know at the Mission Central address below.

Connect with us.

Email us at vance.becker@ lcms. org & linda.becker@lcmsintl.org, or send us postal mail at the Mission Central address below.

Help expand our network by liking 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 or missioncentral.us/becker
- Give by phone at 888-930-4438. 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.

At is a "peachy" day! Peach Pickup Day 2023



















There were many smiling faces on Peach Pickup Day!
Number of Boxes Sold: 800 (about 400 customers in 4 hours)
Number of Volunteers: about 30

MILESTONE GIFTS

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's Children's and Youth Ministries are pleased to provide our students with materials to aid in their spiritual growth.

3 year olds- My First Bible Story Book

1st Graders - ESV Faith Alive Student Bible

3rd Graders - Timeless Bible Truths

6th Graders - ESV Lutheran Study Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and a Confirmation carrying bag

11th Graders— Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook







1st Grade Presentations



3rd Grade Presentations



6th Grade Presentations



11th Grade Presentations



Teachers—Sunday School, Midweek, Small Group



Toddlin' to Jesus Kaja Mueller & Kristin Weis

Preschool 3 & 4 year olds Angela Hotz & Morgan Hotz

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Ryan & Allison Haack

2nd & 3rd Amy Guhl & Carmen Marks

5th Grade Tiffany Roiseland & Bob Powers

Confirmation (6th, 7th & 8th Grades) Marty Wenck Brad Mullane & Diane Burke

> High School Kara Hartwig

Adult Bible Class Pastor Hartwig & Vicar Boester

Preschool Beacon

Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller Assistants, Christie Cherian M/W/F, Sara Cross T/TH
Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949 www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org preschool@ourredeemer.org

Our Redeemer Preschool where children play, learn, and grow in Jesus!



























Children's Ministry Birth—5th Grade



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

"God Redeems His People"

Toddlin' age — 12th Grade 9:20 a.m. — 10:15 a.m. *Invite your friends and come learn about Jesus!*

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
September 24	Luke 11:1-13	A Prayer Lesson—The Lord's Prayer
October 1	John 10:1-18; Psalm 23	A Shepherd Loves—The Good Shepherd
October 8	Luke 19:1-10	A Tree View—Zacchaeus
October 15	Matthew 27:11-66	A Crushing Truth—Jesus is Crucified
October 22	Matthew 28:1-15	A Living Truth—Jesus Rises
October 29	Luke 24:13-35	An Ascending Truth—Jesus Ascends

Sunday School Teachers

Toddlin' to Jesus (0-2 years old) Room 215 Kaja Mueller, Erin Dyson, Kristen Weis

Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 Room 219 Morgan Hotz, Angela Hotz

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Room217 Ryan Haack, Allison Haack

2nd & 3rd Grades Room 117 Amy Guhl, Carmen Marks

4th & 5th Grades Room 121
Tiffany Roiseland, Bob Powers

6th, 7th, 8th Grades Room 208
Marty Wenck, Brad Mullane, Diane Burke (when Marty is gone)

High School 110 (Youth Room) Kara Hartwig



KID'S CLUB

For children ages: 4 years old—5th grade 6:45pm

Wednesday, September 27th
WELCOME NIGHT
Kid's Club Begins!

Lesson: Introduction to the Apostles

Fun activities and snacks to be had. Please meet in the Toddlin' Room



6th - 12th Graders

OCTOBER

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	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DATE	EVENT	TIME
10/7	6th Grade Confirmation Retreat	5:30pm
10/8	Trivia Challenge	12:00pm
10/20	7th & 8th Grade Retreat	6:30pm
10/22	Christmas Program Informational	
10/26	Christ in Film (Scooby Doo (PG))	6:00pm
10/29	Trunk or Treat	4:00pm



Thank you to those who helped out with the Peach Pickup Day and to those who bought peaches.

We sold 800 boxes and had about 30 volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Confirmation Orientation (Parents & Students)
Sunday, September 24th @ 11:45 am
Meet in the Sanctuary
Includes Acolyte Training &
Robe Fitting

1st Night of Confirmation Classes & High School Midweek

Wednesday, September 27th @ 6:45 pm 6th, 7th and 8th graders and high school youth meet in the Fellowship Hall

6th Grade Confirmation Retreat

(Parents & Students) Saturday, October 7th 5:30 pm—8:30 pm



Trivia Challenge Sunday, October 8th

12:00 pm—2:00 pm



7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat

(Parents & Students)
Friday, October 20th
6:30 pm—8:00 am next day



Christ in Film

Thursday, October 26th 6:00 pm—9:00 pm



Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29th 4:00 pm—5:00 pm



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 Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

STAFF & EMAIL	PHONE NO.	STAFF & EMAIL	PHONE NO.
Rev. Dr. Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Ethan Boester Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator redeemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)	Sarah Ghabel, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)
Louise Klopp, Director Choirs/Properties choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Marilyn Paetz, Organist organist@ourredeemer.org	351-4262 (home)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant consultant@ourredeemer.org	319-331-3242 (cell)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)
		Christie Cherian, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)

2023 Board of Elders			2023 Board of Directo	ors
Bill Benson David Bohnsack Tim Eick Rick Gienapp Ryan Haack Skip Kempnich Eric Kooker Chad Pence (Chair)	517-881-9848 319-430-2054 248-514-2881 319-331-7425 319-325-7915 319-351-5297 319-339-0175 319-321-5686	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Board of Elders Properties At Large	2023 Board of Directo Arlan Thompson Ben Weis Barb Schanbacher Kari Kibby Chad Pence Dave Yansky Jeff Kucera Marilyn Albright	319-338-2938 319-936-6850 319-351-3998 319-573-4127 319-321-5686 319-621-7694 563-316-1088 319-430-8129
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152		Steve Scott	563-889-0990

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 20th 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.

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.

Progression in Growing

Ezekiel 34:26

I promised myself I would work for Him And give Him some of my time, As long as I needn't lead Bible class Nor cost me more than a dime.

Then, I promised myself I would work for Him And give Him most of my dime; As long as I need not lead, just follow, But not to use up my time.

So, I promised myself I would work for Him And give Him more of my time, As long as I could lead, not follow, And control my use of dime.

"My child," said He, "What happened? For I sent My Son in love, to your clime. He gave His life for *all* your sins. Believe, That you may know life sublime.

