

The Story of Everything



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

**EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
2023-2024**

2301 East Court Street, Iowa City, IA 52245

319-338-5626

redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

Our Redeemer Staff

Senior Pastor	Brent Hartwig 319-338-5626 ext. 11 (office) 319-337-2403 (home) bhartwig@ourredeemer.org
Preschool Director/Teacher DCE	Kaja Mueller 319-338-3949 (preschool) 319-541-4827 (cell) preschool@ourredeemer.org
Vicar	Ethan Boester 319-338-5626 vicar@ourredeemer.org
Adult Ministry Coordinator	Denise Holida 319-338-5626 smallgroups@ourredeemer.org
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Kara Hartwig 319-338-5626 youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org
Organist	Marilyn Paetz 319-351-4262 organist@ourredeemer.org
Director of Choirs Properties Coordinator	Louise Klopp 319-338-5626 choirdirector@ourredeemer.org
Preschool Assistants	Sara Cross Christie Cherian 319-338-3949 preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org
Office Coordinator	Lorrie Bailey 319-338-5626 reddeemer@ourredeemer.org
Bookkeeper	Sarah Gabel 319-338-5626 bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org
Consultant	Laurel Sellers 319-331-3242 consultant@ourredeemer.org
Director of Technology	Kevin Sellers 319-631-8924 technology@ourredeemer.org

ELDERS

Bill Benson
Dave Bohnsack
Tim Eick
Rick Gienapp
Ryan Haack
Skip Kempnich
Eric Kooker
Chad Pence
Art Schwarting



An elder must be dedicated to God's Word and live as an example to other members. The Board of Elders consists of men elected at the September Voters' Meeting for three-year terms. The terms are staggered; thus, new elders are added regularly. Generally, each elder serves two terms, but the second is strictly voluntary.

Elders assist with worship services in such ways as Holy Communion, Scripture reading, special prayers, and Baptism.

Each elder is assigned a zone consisting of 60-80 member families. Zones are determined alphabetically by last name.

Each elder is responsible as a prayer partner with another committee chair and concerns himself with the spiritual welfare of the person and committee involved.

Regular elder meetings are scheduled at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month.

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

Contents

Our Redeemer Staff	2	Our Redeemer Preschool	35
Elders	2	Kids Club	36
2023-2024 Theme	4	Sunday School	37
The Story of Everything: From Genesis to the Last Day	4	Children's Christmas Program & Lunch	39
Stephen Ministry	6	Vacation Bible School	39
Events	7	Service Connections:	40
Christmas & Cookies	7	Assimilation	40
MidWeek Events	7	Health Ministries	40
Not-So-Newlywed Game	8	Human Care	41
Pancake Day	8	Mission	42
Parade Party	8	Outreach	43
Trivia Challenge	9	Properties	44
Trunk-or-Treat	9	Administrative Connections:	45
Adult	10	Beacon	45
Importance of Bible Study	10	Card Shop	45
Bible Studies at a Glance	12	Communication Cabinets	45
Wednesday Morning	12	Communication Racks	45
Wednesday Evening	12	Devotions	45
Basics of the Faith	12	Library	46
Book Club: The Story of Everything	16	Reflections	46
Small Group Ministry	20	Theme Song	47
Comfort-Tiers	21	Theme Verses	47
Lunch Bunch	21	Worship Connections:	49
Christ in Film	22	The Story of Everything (Stewardship Series)	49
Men	23	It's About Time! (Advent Sermon Series)	50
Bible Study For Men	23	Let my People Go! The Book of Exodus (Lenten Sermon Series)	51
Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)	23	Lenten Prayer Walk	52
Women	24	Acolytes	52
Bible Study For Women	24	Adult Choir	52
Young Adult	25	Baptism	53
20/30 Years Small Group	25	Fellowship Time	53
Women's Mission Guild (LWML)	26	Handbell Choir	53
Youth	29	Nursery	53
Parents of Youth	29	Organ and Piano	53
Confirmation Classes	29	Praise Team	54
Confirmation Retreats	30	Prayer Chain	54
Confirmation Youth	30	Special Music	54
High School Youth	30	Technology Assistants	55
Midweek	31	Ushers	55
Live Nativity	31	Worship Services	60
Summer Servant Event – UKANDU	32		
LCMS Youth Gathering (NYG)	32		
Fundraising and Prize Accounts	33		
Children	34		
Cradle Roll	34		



THE STORY OF EVERYTHING: FROM GENESIS TO THE LAST DAY

The Story of Everything. From the very beginning when God spoke all of creation into being, until the Last Day when Jesus returns, the Story of Everything is exactly that, the story of all that God has done throughout history and will continue to do through eternity. God's Story of Everything tells us how to see the world and what happens within it. More broadly, however, a Story of Everything is an understanding of the world that goes from Point A to Point Z.

Everyone has a Story of Everything: a belief of how everything began, what happens in the end, and everything in between. Your Story of Everything shapes how you view the world and what happens in it. The world is full of competing stories, each one trying to define our identity and give us a purpose,

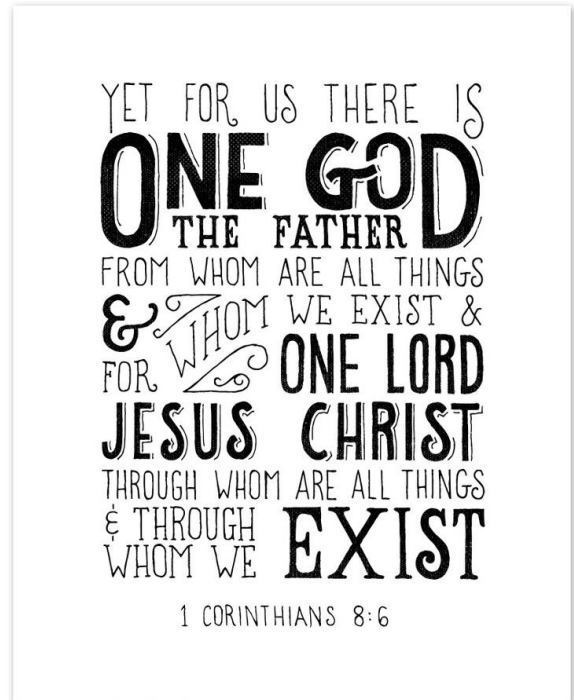
and this is why it is important for us as Christians to know our Story of Everything. We are not just another story in a world of stories. Rather, *our* Story of Everything is *God's* Story of Everything.

It is too easy to get lost in this world of competing stories. No one is an island, and we live with, work with, and have to reach into these other stories, these other peoples' lives, and share the Gospel with them in a way that matters. We are vulnerable while doing this as our Story of Everything is conflicting with theirs. The powers of sin, death, and the devil will always be trying to drive us into thinking that our Story of Everything is wrong, incomplete, or just one of many. Others will try to erase your identity in Christ, take it away from you, and lead you down other paths of doubt and sin. We, as Christians, need to be able to recognize other people's Stories of Everything, uphold our own Story as God's true Story of Everything, and then reach into their stories to share with them the Gospel in a meaningful way.

May this year be a blessing to us as we seek to understand God's role throughout history and in our lives today. May we learn of these other stories so that we may share with them God's Story, the true Story of Everything, which centers on Christ. May we be like Paul, who, while he was in Ephesus, saw the story of the Greeks. He saw that they were fearful of forgetting a god, and so had a statue to an unknown god just in case. Paul used this statue to point the Greeks to the God they didn't know, the true God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to show that He is the one and only God.

Throughout this year, we will work through God's Story of Everything. To do this, we will be tackling the religions of other people and how they understand the world so that we can better connect them to Christ. *Christ in Film* continues so that we can see Christ's impact not just in church, but in the world around us. When we watch movies or TV shows, there is often Christian imagery used throughout, and this imagery is a great way to open a conversation about Christ. As we map out God's Story of Everything, we will work through the main events of the Bible so that when someone asks what we believe, we can tell them. Pastor Hartwig will also be sharing his dissertation, showing how the work he has done connects to *The Story of Everything*.

As we learn, let us keep our eyes focused on Christ, the center of our Story of Everything, who was the beginning, is the end, and out of love came into the world to die on the cross and rise again for our salvation. We learn His story, one we've been made a part of, so that we may share this Story of Everything, this Good News, with all people and bring them into His Story, that we all may be forgiven and be brought to everlasting life.





Stephen Ministry

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is served by several Stephen Ministers.

Their vision statement is **The Our Redeemer Stephen Ministry prepares and supports laity who provide Christ-centered care to people facing a variety of crises or who are life-challenged.** A crisis, used in this context, is defined as an emotionally charged time or instability during which a crucial life change occurred; that is, a situation or period in which things are uncertain, difficult, or painful, especially a time when action must be taken to avoid a breakdown or life spinning out of control. It is not an indication of futility, but a time of imbalance, where the trusting relationship between the affected person and God is strained by preoccupation with worldly concerns.

Stephen Ministry can help the person in crisis by establishing a safe haven based upon the love of Christ and the compassion of an empathetic and understanding Christian willing to help the affected work through his/her imbalance through active listening and thoughtful sharing of life experiences, allowing the person to again feel the healing power of Christ's love within his/her life.

Implicit in this arrangement is a process-oriented relationship, not an outcome-based arrangement. Confidentiality is implicit in all Stephen Ministry relationships.

WE CARE, CHRIST CURES!

Contact the church office if you have an interest in the Stephen Ministry program at 319-338-5626 or contact one of your Stephen Minister trainers:

Pastor Brent Hartwig	319-338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse	319-351-7059
Kevin Sellers	319-631-8924

Events



CHRISTMAS & COOKIES

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Following 10:30 am Worship

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

MIDWEEK EVENTS

Psalm 119:105 says, *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* Join us for many midweek programs for all ages!

MIDWEEK EVENING SCHEDULE

6:00 pm	Meal on select evenings
6:45 pm	Kids Club (4 yrs-5 th Grade)
	Confirmation Classes (6 th – 8 th Grade)
	High School Midweek
	Adult Choir
7:00 pm	Adult Classes
8:00 pm	End of Evening

CANCELLATION

The Midweek Programs will follow the same cancellation pattern as the Iowa City School system. If the Iowa City schools have cancelled class for the day, we will cancel any meals and classes. We will also use Channel 9 KCRG to post a cancellation.

Use your best judgment if class is not cancelled. We recognize that many of you are dealing with different driving conditions in and outside of Iowa City. Confirmation classes may have other cancellation arrangements.

REGISTRATION FOR MIDWEEK & CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Registration materials are available in the church office or online

<https://forms.gle/yniuevrMgKWKn3D7>

At Our Redeemer, we are about equipping disciples, and therefore offer opportunities for you to be in God's Word during the week.

MIDWEEK MEALS

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

Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
Wednesday, April 3, 2024

NOT-SO-NEWLYWED GAME



Sunday, February 11, 2024

Fun, fellowship, food, and frolic. Based on the old Newlywed Game, three contestant couples vie for a prize by answering questions, trying to match their spouse's answers.

Everyone is welcome to take part as the studio (or fellowship hall) audience. If you and your spouse would like to be one of the contestant couples, please let the church office know.

You will want to come and cheer them on to victory. Everyone is asked to bring snacks and appetizers as we do for Trivia Challenge. A Thrivent Action Team will provide beverages and paper goods.

PANCAKE DAY



Saturday, March 2, 2024

Pancake Day has been a long-standing tradition at Our Redeemer. Originally, Pancake Day supported our 511 Melrose mission effort (Our Redeemer property used by Alcoholics Anonymous). It currently supports missions of Our Redeemer, either local or more far-reaching. Come help to make, serve, and clean-up. At least come to eat. Yum!

PARADE PARTY

Parade Party

Come on **Wednesday, September 20th**, at **5:30 pm** to the church parking lot to watch the **City High Homecoming Parade**.



Bring your own chairs or blankets to sit curbside.

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

TRIVIA CHALLENGE



CHALLENGE

October 8, 2023, & March 3, 2024
Following Late Service

What is Trivia Challenge?

Trivia Challenges are informal, fun competitions where teams battle to see who has the greatest knowledge of trivia.

General knowledge and trivial interest questions are asked by a trivia host and the winner is the team which, at the end of the event, has correctly answered the most number of questions.

How does Trivia Challenge work?

The events themselves are quite simple. You gather a group of eight participants to form a team.

The Challenge is run in rounds. During each round the host asks a series of ten questions. The teams discuss the answers at their table and record their answers on their score sheet.

At the conclusion of each round, the sheets are collected and checked for accuracy. Meanwhile, the answers are revealed to the participants.

At the conclusion of the seven rounds, total scores are added up and a traveling trophy is awarded to the winning team.

What do we eat?

We will begin this event with a potluck of appetizers and hors d'oeuvres that can be snacked on throughout the challenge

Invite your friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family, form a team, and host a party where the place and the entertainment are provided.

***THIS EVENT IS EXCELLENT
FOR OUTREACH!***

Contact the church office at 338-5626
for more information.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

**Sunday, October 29, 2023
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

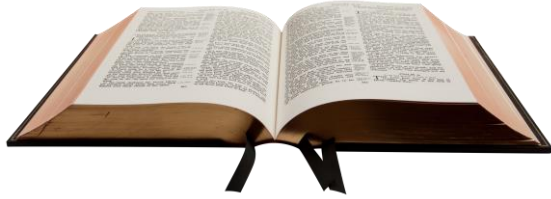
What is Trunk-or-Treat? It's when several congregational members and committees get together at church, park their cars in the parking lot, open up the trunks of their cars, and kids come to each car for goodies!



Watch ***Reflections*** in the Fall for more information.

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

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY



Here are five solid reasons why you need Bible study:

1. It Guards You Against False Teachings

False teaching is very dangerous, and it should never be underestimated. God's truth is the only power that can effectively offset and destroy doctrines of demons. And while all false doctrine may not be classified as doctrines of devils, all false doctrine has in fact, "erred from the truth." We read:

"Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some" ~2 Timothy 2:16-18.

This particular false teaching was able to undermine the faith of certain individuals who heard it. It will have the same effect on those who have not sufficiently protected themselves through the careful and faithful study of God's Word.

2. It Increases Your Level of Discernment

The renowned nineteenth century revivalist Charles Spurgeon made a

fascinating statement that reveals just how important discernment is. He said that "discernment is not just knowing the difference between right and wrong, it is knowing the difference between right and almost right." This apt description does not just apply to false teaching, but to all matters of faith and life. The more we deliberately expose ourselves to God's Word, the more His Word will be able to take root in our lives. We read the words of the psalmist:

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" ~Psalm 119:11.

3. It is Able to Make You Wise unto Salvation

"And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" ~2 Timothy 3:15.

Bible study will help to reinforce the truth that Christ is to be the focal point of our faith. What must be understood is that Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the Bible. From Genesis 3:15, where we read the protoevangelium, or first gospel, we hear the prophets speak of and point to One who would come bringing salvation with Him; that One is Jesus Christ. Bible study will also give a fuller appreciation of this great salvation in which His grace has made us a part. We receive wisdom through the earnest study of God's Word concerning who we are in Christ.

4. It Keeps You from Wrongly Dividing the Word

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need

to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” ~2 Timothy 2:15.

If Scripture can be rightly divided, then surely it can also be wrongly divided—and none of us want to be the one who does such a thing. As we study His Word, the Holy Spirit, who superintended the writing of the Word, will guide us into truth.

“But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come” ~John 16:13.

The Holy Spirit will never promote, confirm, or approve that which is not truth. Because He is the Spirit of Truth, this is what He reveals. Anyone who deliberately falsifies Scripture, or is guilty of spreading dangerous doctrinal deviations, has not heard from the Spirit of God. Certain teachings may sound right and even feel right, but if it does not line up with Scripture, it is to be rejected.

5. It Will Bless You When Its Principles are Kept and Applied

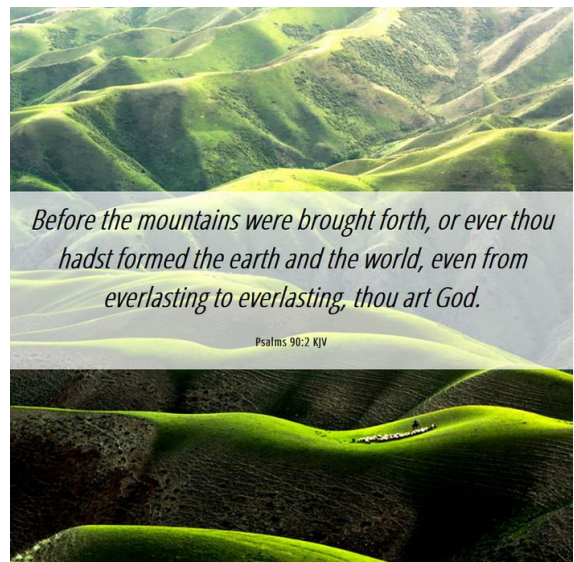
The Word of God will never be able to accomplish its desired effect in our lives unless we apply to our lives what we have received. By default, not doing so causes us to be the dreaded hearers of the Word, and not doers as in James 1:22. Rather, we should continue to look into the Word with purpose:

“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do” ~James 1:25.

In closing, how you view the Word of God will determine the place that it holds in your life. The Bible should not be consigned as just “good literature,” or a “great read.” It is not simply a book of short stories or even a history book of sorts. All of these ideas are far from the actual truth. The Bible is the unerring, infallible, unchanging, and ever-living Word of God.

These final words from the psalmist serve to show us all we need to understand about God’s Word and why we need to devote ourselves to its study:

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is great reward” ~Psalm 19:7-11.



Bible Studies at a Glance

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Study time is offered between Sunday services for convenience; attend the Bible Study before or after you attend a worship service. Adult classes are held each Sunday morning. The schedule of courses is:

No Sunday School and Bible Class on:

September 3, 2023 (Labor Day)
November 26, 2023 (Thanksgiving Weekend)
December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve)
December 31, 2023 (New Year's Eve)
March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday)
May 19, 2024 (Graduation Breakfast)
May 26, 2024 (Memorial Day Weekend)
June 2, 2024 (Christ Cares Sunday)

September 24

Doctor of Ministry Report

October 1

Mission Update – Parish Nurses of Eswatini

October 8, 15

Religions and Denominations

October 22 *Mission Speaker – Rev Fritsche*

October 29 - November 19

Religions and Denominations

December 3-17

God in the Jukebox

January 7 - 28

Read through the Bible

February 4

Mission Update – Panama Lutheran Church

February 11 – March 24, April 7

Read through the Bible

April 14 *Mission Update – UKANDU*

April 21 – May 5

Read through the Bible

May 12 *Sunday School Celebration*

June 9 *Read through the Bible*

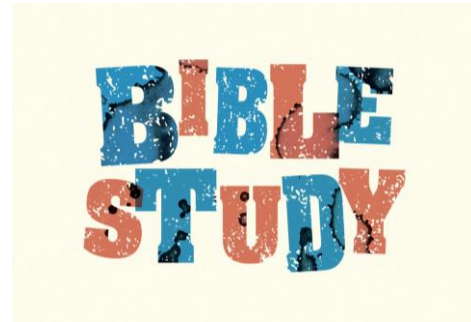
WEDNESDAY MORNING

On the first and third Wednesday morning of each month, a Bible Study class is offered prior to our Lunch Bunch program.

SCHEDULE

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Romans



WEDNESDAY EVENING

On Wednesday evenings, a Bible Study class is offered for adults as part of our Midweek program.

September 27 – November 1

The Lutheran Difference - Creation

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

November 8, 15, 29; December 6-20;

January 10-31; February 7, 21, 28

God's Word for Today:

Genesis - Rooted in Relationship

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

March 6, 20; April 3-17

Together We Believe: The Apostles' Creed

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Bible Studies

BASICS OF THE FAITH



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

Fall

October 27, 28

Weekend Immersion

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

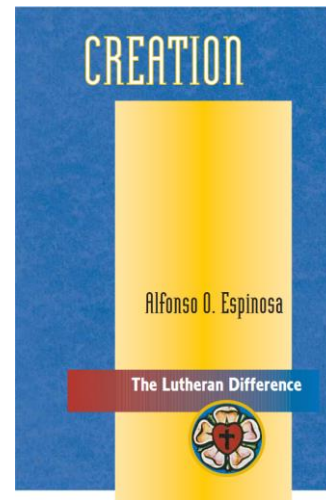
Spring

February 16, 17

Weekend Immersion

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

THE LUTHERAN DIFFERENCE-CREATION



Wednesday Nights

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

September 27; October 4, 11, 18, 25;

November 1

24-hour days.

Theistic evolution.

Macroevolution.

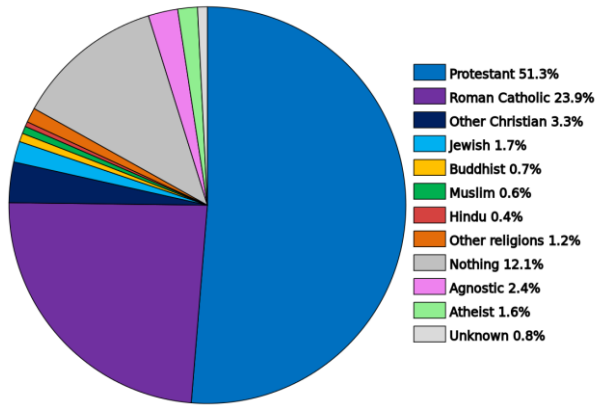
Monergism.

So many opinions. What do *you* believe?

(6 Sessions) As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often struggle to explain their beliefs and practices. Although many Lutherans have learned the “what” of Lutheran doctrines, they do not always understand the “why.” Based on God's Word as faithfully reflected in the Lutheran Confessions, this study will help you to state clearly what you believe.

- **Creator and Creation**
- **Creation out of Nothing**
- **Creation in Six Days**
- **Creation That Is Orderly and Distinct**
- **Creation Fallen from the Creator**
- **Creation and the Gospel**

**RELIGIONS AND DENOMINATIONS
AROUND OUR TOWN**



Religion in the United States

**October 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19
Sunday Mornings
9:20 am – 10:05 am**

Drive around America and you will see that churches and religious institutions are plentiful. There is a variety to select from, and in our consumeristic mentality, churches, synagogues, and mosques lining Main Street are no different than a variety of laundry soaps in the discount stores aisle.

It's easy to think all religions and denominations believe the same thing, the same doctrine, but the differences are astounding. Baptism, Communion, and free will are all examples of some of the major differences among Christian denominations. The very definition of God is at the core of various different religions. In this Bible study the class will direct the focus on various religions and denominations.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY REPORT

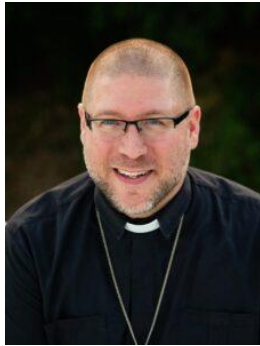


**September 24
Sunday Morning
9:20 am – 10:15 am**

Hospitality was the subject of Pastor Hartwig's dissertation. Join us as he shares the journey to his doctorate, the research conducted, and the conclusions reached. During this one-time Bible study, Pastor will share how this will impact Our Redeemer moving forward.



MISSION SPEAKER



OCTOBER 22
Sunday Morning
9:20 – 10:05 am

Noon luncheon

Rev. Joel P. Fritsche serves as director of Vicarage and Deaconess Internships and assistant professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Since 2014, Fritsche has served as a missionary pastor and church planter in the Dominican Republic. Since 2017, he also has been serving as the director and professor of biblical languages at Concordia Seminary the Reformer, where he helps form Lutheran pastors and deaconesses for partner churches and mission fields throughout Latin America.

Our guest preacher will also speak at a noon lunch.



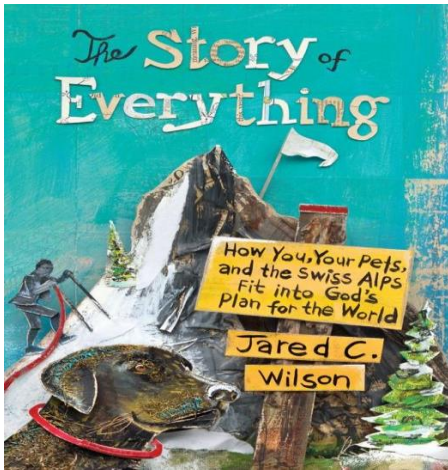
GOD IN THE JUKEBOX



December 3, 10, 17
Sunday Mornings
9:20 – 10:05 am

God. The Big Guy. The Man Upstairs. The Creator and Ruler of the Universe. Anyway you express the idea of God, the fact remains that God has made quite a few appearances in popular music through the decades, being as He is an important aspect of human existence. Rap, Rock, Pop or Country music, God doesn't escape the attention of songwriters. Some artists declare their own faith in all of His mysterious works. Others look upon God as being a figment of the imagination, or a cruel hoax of humanity's own making. Still others associate God with the idea of an ideal version of how the world should be if we were to be more godlike. Join us as we listen to songs, study the lyrics, and evaluate how the Christian faith is expressed in song. Does it align with Scripture?

BOOK CLUB: THE STORY OF EVERYTHING



Thursday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

February 15, 2024
Session 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 3)

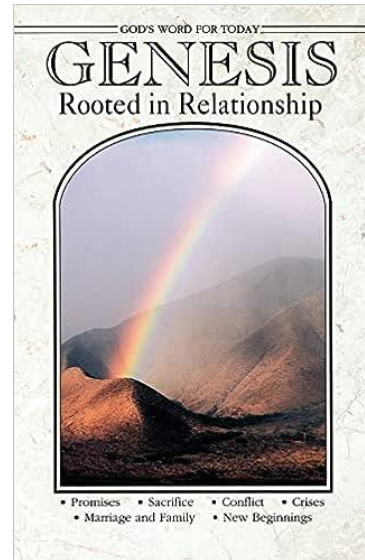
March 21, 2024
Session 2 (Chapters 4 & 5)

April 25, 2024
Session 3 (Chapters 6, 7, & 8)

May 23, 2024
Session 4 (Chapters 9 & 10)

In *The Story of Everything*, Jared Wilson explores the redemptive story that God is telling in and through the world. Life often seems mundane. We go from work and school to home. We eat and watch TV. We sleep and repeat. It can be hard to see the point in our “normal” lives. What we tend to miss is that we are actually part of something huge: God’s story – the greatest story ever told! Looking at God’s redemptive plan for humanity, this book will help you understand what the Gospel means for your life, home, pets, hobbies, and more.

GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY:
GENESIS ROOTED IN RELATIONSHIP



Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

November 8, 15, 29; December 6, 13, 20;
January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 21, 28

(13 sessions) "Who am I?" People seem to have lost their sense of belonging. They ask, "Who am I? What am I worth? Where am I going?"

We have lost sight of our real roots. Because of sin, people have forgotten who they are in relationship to God, and to one another. This study focuses on:

- God's restoration through Jesus Christ of the broken relationship that existed between Him and us;
- Our rootedness in Him, which is strengthened as the Holy Spirit works through God's Word;
- God's love for us in Christ, which heals broken relationships and provides power to strengthen relationships between us and others.

MISSION UPDATES



**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study
9:20 am – 10:05 am**

**October 1
Parish Nurses of Eswatini**

Anita Nicholson and her University of Iowa College of Nursing students travel to Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland).

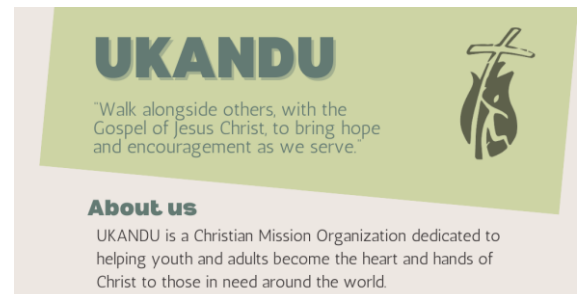
Eswatini is a small country located in Southern Africa, where two-thirds of the population live in extreme poverty.

Anita and her students work along-side Eswatini nurses at Good Shepherd Hospital and Faith Community nurses to provide care to patients across the rural countryside suffering acute and chronic illnesses (including AIDS). They also educate youth in schools on HIV prevention, as Eswatini has the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world.



**February 4, 2024
Panama Lutheran Church**

Our Redeemer has supported Panama missions with Mission Trips, budgeted mission dollars, and, most recently, as a representative to FORO. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Balboa is now being served by Rev. Arthur Rickman and was previously served by Rev. Brian Gauthier, both who have ties to people at Our Redeemer. God is Great Lutheran Church in Loma Cova and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Sora are also a part of this Panama mission.



**April 14, 2024
UKANDU**

Each year, Our Redeemer sends youth and adults to UKANDU to do charitable mission work in inner city Chicago. This servant event has a huge impact on all attendees.

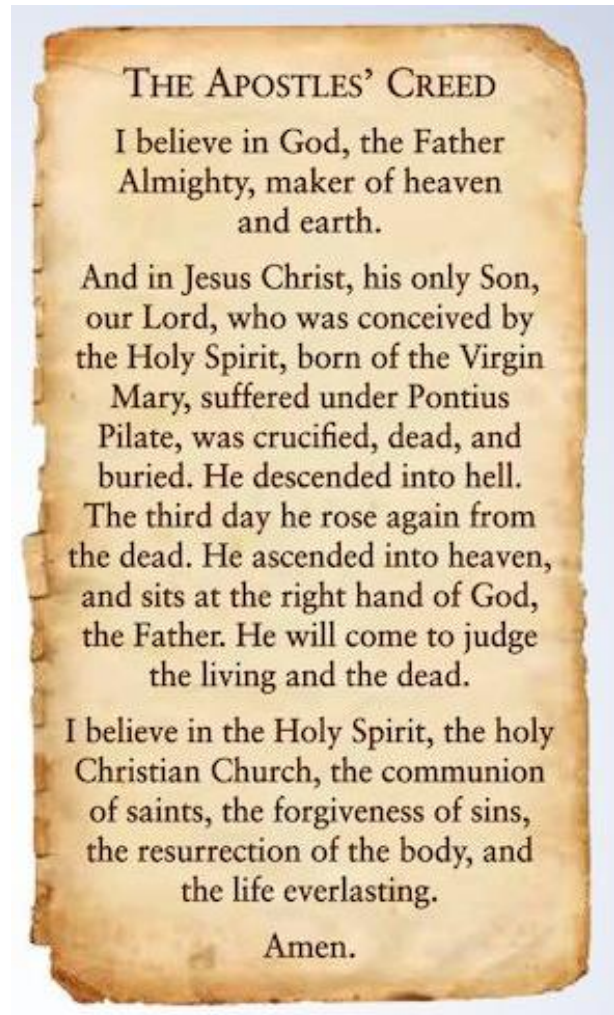
TOGETHER WE BELIEVE:
A STUDY OF THE APOSTLES' CREED



Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
March 6, 20; April 3, 10, 17

The Apostles' Creed. You repeat it week after week in church, but have you stopped to contemplate the words you're speaking? Better yet, have you considered how The Apostles' Creed is used in the mission field to speak Christ's love and God's truth to the world? Embark on a cross-cultural journey of The Apostles' Creed from the mission field in Asia all the way to your home.

Knowing God and having a personal relationship with Him is crucial to developing your faith. That includes learning His Word in your native language. As author Emily Belvery worked in the mission field, it was pivotal for her to learn how to speak this foundational statement of faith in the heart language of the people she was reaching out to. As she studied, she renewed her appreciation and joy for The Apostles' Creed.



**READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS:
ONE BOOK, ONE CONGREGATION, ONE BODY**

**Building
up the
Body**
through
GOD'S WORD

**Starting in
January**

January 7- 28
February 11 – March 24
April 7, 21, 28
May 5, June 9

Ephesians 4:11–16

*¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up the body of Christ**, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

GOALS for BUILDING THE BODY

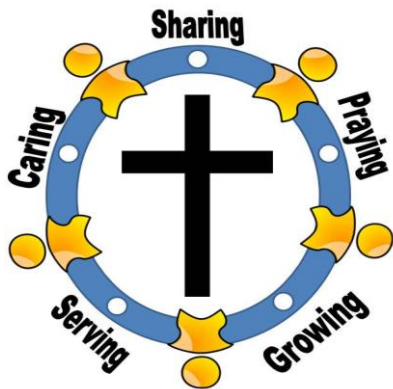


- ✘ **Change our Bible habits to be daily in the Word.**
- ✘ **Be more skilled in applying the Scripture to our daily lives so that we may grow in our faith.**
- ✘ **Discussion of Scripture becomes commonplace in our fellowship.**
- ✘ **Each member of Our Redeemer brings a Bible to church so that it becomes an everyday tool in our parish life.**
- ✘ **Be armed for spiritual warfare through memorization of Scripture passages.**

Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Mission Statement

*To grow in grace,
using our spiritual gifts,
through good stewardship
for the benefit of the group
so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

Like nothing else, Small Groups have the power to change lives. They are the ideal route to discipleship – a place where the rubber of biblical truth meets the road of human relationships.

Small Groups are intentionally formed “communities of care” of 4-12 people who share a common interest and meet regularly in their homes for Scripture, prayer, and service, with concern and support for one another.

Small Group Ministry (SGM) has been active in Our Redeemer in some shape or form for many years. Small Groups emulate the following five characteristics:

CARING

A small group provides an environment by which members in the group are cared for and nurtured by one another. This includes prayer support, phone calls, encouragement, and resources that will help meet the group members’ care needs.

SHARING

A small group provides a friendly and supportive atmosphere where members can safely share joys and concerns, knowing that what is said will be treated with sensitivity and will be kept in confidence.

PRAYING

A small group supports each other by praying with one another and for one another as a key part for the growth of relationships.

GROWING

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

SERVING

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

We currently have several small groups meeting at Our Redeemer.

Contact Denise Holida at email smallgroups@ourredeemer.org.

COMFORT-TIERS

This is a group of women who meet in the Fellowship Hall and tie comforters for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and other charities.

The group meets on Thursdays from 9:00 am – noon. Anyone is welcome to come and help tie for an hour or two. We use one or two to just sit and thread needles for us. The tables are elevated to prevent backaches. Coffee/goodies are provided. We sometimes go out to eat together.

If you wish to donate toward the making of these comforters, donations of fabric are welcomed with open arms! We can use almost anything that is washable and clean:

- Used sheets, blankets, draperies, curtains, tablecloths, pillowcases, linens (Any size or condition--torn, mended, stained).
- New fabric such as yard lengths of 45" fabric (minimum of 3-1/2 yards while 60" fabric requires 2-1/2 yards) or newer sheets or draperies.
- Sewing scraps of any size to patch together into making top layers.
- Unmendable or outdated clothing; we tear out the backs of the legs of slacks. We cut off seams of shirts and blouses to use the fabric. Some of our comforter tops have pockets included on them and/or a button or two.
- Old blankets; worn old ones go into the comforters as 'middles' as do other thinner sheets/fabrics--a third layer helps sift out sand during sand storms in desert areas.
- Heavy crochet thread (Number 10) to tie with; any other yarns donated are used in crocheting/knitting caps,

scarves or mittens for school children and caps for UI Hospital babies.

- We do not use quilting thread but do use any color sewing thread--any leftover or new spools.
- Used T-shirts (cut up and sewn into diapers for LWR baby care kits).

Monetary donations are always welcome. Make checks payable to Our Redeemer Women's Mission Guild and enter Comfort-Tiers on the Memo line.

You can give the check to any active Guild member. We shop at thrift stores, store sales, and garage sales to make the funds go further. Or you might like to shop yourself.

Questions? Call Lillian Moyer at 354-5644 or Carol Schuldt at 319-383-4597. Thank you!

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. The main dish is usually provided and those attending may contribute by bringing a potluck dish.

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

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

For more information, contact Laurel Sellers at 319-331-3242.

CHRIST IN FILM



Thursday nights as listed
6:00 pm

CHRIST IN FILM

For over 100 years, Hollywood has informed and influenced American pop culture. While that relationship is one that often draws consternation from Christians, Tinseltown actually incorporates Christian themes to a surprising degree!

There are films about Jesus Christ, and there are films with “Christ-figures” that parallel His story—and they appear in many films! Christ figures are portrayed as “saviors” of individuals, groups of people, or even all humanity. They endure a sizable sacrifice as the means of bringing that salvation about for others, often a fate they do not deserve, up to and including death. Sometimes he or she even has the initials “J.C.”

Other biblical elements may be mixed and matched, but the “Chosen One” may gain a group of devoted followers, be betrayed by a follower, face persecution from nonbelievers, undergo a “Passion,” or perhaps even a literal resurrection!

A brief discussion and Bible study follows each film. Come learn how Christians can

see Christ even in secular art—and how we might use it to share the Good News!



October 26, 2023
Scooby-Doo
(PG) 86m

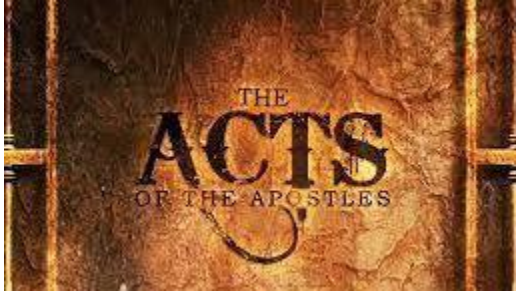
November 30, 2023
Signs
(PG-13) 106m



December 21, 2023
Die Hard
(R) 132m

January 25, 2024
Nefarious
(R) 98m



BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN**ACTS**

**Typically the 2nd and 4th Saturdays
of each month**

8:00 am – 9:30 am

[Check the monthly calendar for any
updates to time and dates]

The Book of Acts, written by St. Luke, works both as a continuation of the Gospel of Luke but also as a commentary of St. Paul's Letters. What Paul teaches in his letters, Acts exemplifies the truth of his words: no Law or Work of man can justify him, only Faith in Christ.

At the end of Luke, we are left with a question: What will the apostles and other believers do now that Jesus is gone? The answer to the question is in Jesus' command to them, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth" (Acts 1:8). In Acts, we see the results of the Holy Spirit working through the early Christians as they spread the Gospel and the news of God's coming kingdom throughout the world. During our time in Acts, we will discuss this movement of the Gospel and how the life and work of the early Christians applies to us today.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE (LLL)

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

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

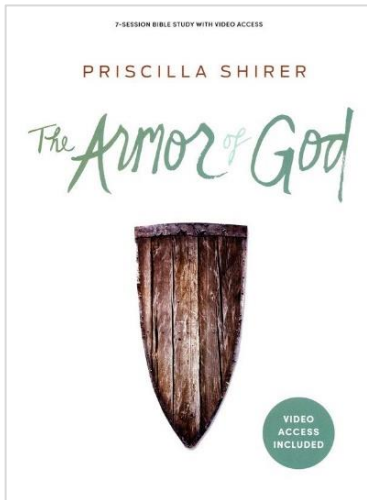
One important outreach ministry LLL supports is 511 Melrose, the meeting place for Iowa City Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

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



MEN AT THE CROSS

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN



THE ARMOR OF GOD

By Priscilla Shirer

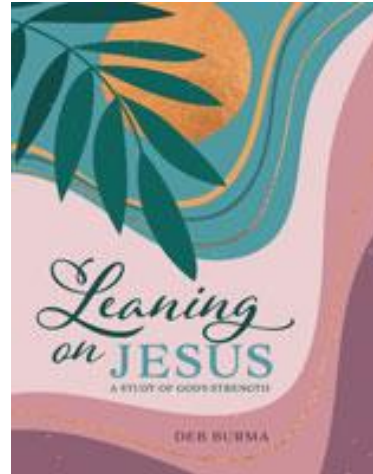
Tuesday mornings

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 19; October 3, 17, 31;

November 14, 28; December 5

As a believer in Jesus, you are in an invisible war every day. It's unseen and unheard, but it affects your life and everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. Jesus has not left you unarmed and the enemy always fails when he meets a woman properly dressed. *The Armor of God*, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting God's armor on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.



LEANING ON JESUS

By Deb Burma

Tuesday evenings

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

October 24; November 7, 21; December 5;

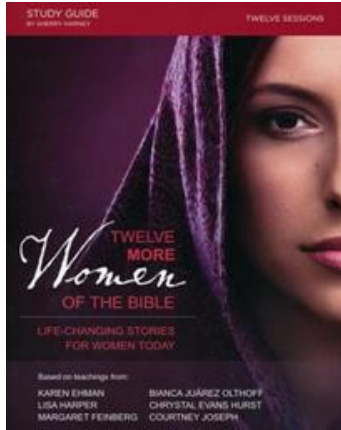
January 9, 23; February 6, 20

Our culture encourages independence and self-empowerment. We are told we have all we need to make it all work, that we can attain our goals and own our own lives. But what happens when we cannot do it on our own or simply do not? How can we find rest when nothing goes right or never feels like it is enough?

Let's learn to live out (and promote) a different posture: *Leaning on Jesus*.

Leaning on Jesus invites you to explore what it means to lean on your Redeemer. In eight weeks of study, divided into forty short daily sessions, learn how Jesus' words show you forgiveness and strength for today, direction for tomorrow, and hope for eternity.

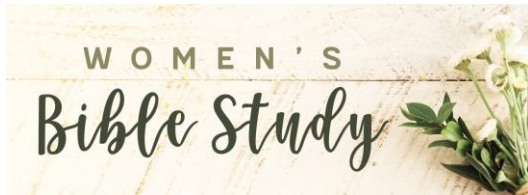
Let's lean forward to listen, lean back to rest, and lean on Jesus, together. He is present with you now.



12 MORE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

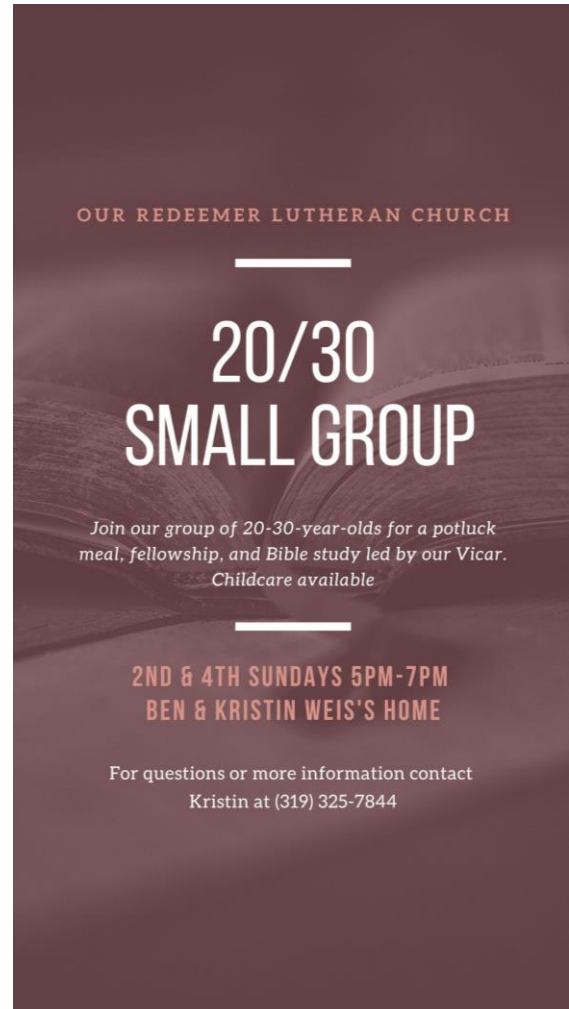
**Tuesday mornings
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Spring dates to be determined**

This fresh look at these women in the Bible will help you discover new insights into God's character, persevere through difficult times, and find joy in the hope that Jesus provides. This study guide includes background information on each woman, group discussion questions, Bible exploration, and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions.



Young Adult

20/30 SMALL GROUP



Women's Mission Guild (LWML)



MISSION

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

Our Redeemer's Women's Mission Guild is a part of the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League, known as LWML. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

OUR PURPOSE is...

- To help women grow spiritually:
MISSION INSPIRATION
- To encourage and equip women to reach out in love:
MISSION EDUCATION
- To provide opportunities for helping others:
MISSION SERVICE

OUR GOAL is to involve all women of Our Redeemer, each affirming her relationship with God so she is enabled to use her gifts in serving the Lord with gladness. We like to refer to ourselves as Lutheran Women in Mission.

MEETINGS

Our Lutheran Women's Missionary League or Mission Guild typically meets the third Monday of most months in the Fellowship Hall. See schedule for times and exceptions. At most of the meetings, we have devotions, Bible study, a speaker or mission project, and a snack. Collections for mites and for general offering are taken.

LWML SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

We have a faithful group of women that help serve at funeral lunches or other serving events.

One of our most productive groups is the Comfort-Tiers. This dedicated bunch of stitchers provides World Relief or local charities with more comfort quilts than you could imagine. World Relief efforts are a big part of our mission here. We have two large donations every year.

SUPPORTING MISSIONS

Through our two major annual fun-draisers, the Cookie Walk in December and the Tasting Bee in the spring, we provide funds to several local, national, and international mission projects. Our Redeemer campers at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are eligible for one third of the cost, up to \$60. Grants to women serving Jesus Christ and supporting the LWML through the LCMS or its recognized service organizations are available, grants starting at \$100. Call Melissa Mullane at 319-936-5827 for more information.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

December 2, 2023

On the first Saturday of December the LWML hosts a Cookie Walk. Dozens upon dozens of cookies, every kind you can think of, cover over 80 feet of table space. These cookies are sold by the pound. If you think the line-up of cookies is long, you should see the line-up of customers at the door. Each year, many people come for these wonderful homemade treats.

Congregational help is needed:

1. Pray that the attendees might see Christ's light in this mission-centered activity while they are shopping.
2. Pull out your favorite recipes and prepare to bake. We encourage each family to bake four or more dozen cookies. If you like a challenge, bake one more dozen than you did last year.
3. Help advertise by placing posters at your workplace and/or local shops.
4. Prayerfully consider giving of your time to assist with set-up, greeting our guests, or cleaning up the crumbs left behind.



MITE BOX

What is a "Mite Box"? Recall the biblical account of the poor widow who gave two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

~ Mark 12:43

These are the pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters saved from day to day. Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely-given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. 75% of these monies go to the LWML District East for its biennial mission projects; the other 25% goes to the national organization for its biennial mission projects.

WATCH FOR EVENTS!

Meetings and events will appear in *Reflections* and *Beacon*. Please plan to attend any get-together; all women are already members!

CONTACT

Any questions, contact Laurel Sellers at 319-331-3242.

2023-2024 LWML SCHEDULE

2023

September 8-9 **Fall Retreat**
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

September 18 **Salad potluck** 6:00 pm
Vicar Boester

September 30 **Fall Zone Event** 9:00 am
St. Paul's, Marion

October 8 **LWML Sunday**
The King is Coming
(Psalm 24:7-10)

October 16 **Anita Nicholson** 7:00 pm
Eswatini Parish Nurses

October 21 **World Relief Pickup** 8:00 am

November 20 **Doris Montag** 7:00 pm
A Lady and Her Legs: The History of Women's Shaving and Stockings

December 2 **Christmas Cookie Walk**
9:00 am – 11:00 am

December 4 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

December 11 **LWML Christmas Party**
6:00 pm

December 13 **Advent Supper** 5:10 pm
LWML serves Advent meal

2024

January No meeting

February 19 **Bunco Night** 7:00 pm
Nominating Committee
(President, Secretary)

March 18 **Tee Shirt Icebreaker**
7:00 pm

March 20 **Lenten Meal** 5:10 pm
LWML serves Advent meal

April TBA **Spring Zone Event**
Bethany Lutheran, CR

April TBD **Spring World Relief Pickup**

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

April 15 **Becky Benson** 7:00 pm
Palliative Care

May 13 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
2024-2025 Calendar Planning

May 20 **Guild Night Out** 6:00 pm

June 21-22 **IED Convention**
Radisson, Cedar Rapids

July No meeting

August TBA **Road Trip**
Stanley Museum of Art

September 16 **Salad Potluck** 6:00 pm
Report on Convention

Youth

6th – 12th Graders

Mission Statement

Through God, as youth of Our Redeemer, we will build a faith community that identifies our God-given talents, which trains and equips us to live and share what we believe and to serve the congregation and community.

Key Verse

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

~ 2 Timothy 3:15-17



PARENTS OF YOUTH

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

The Lord has given you the task to “*train up your child in the way he should go.*”

~Proverbs 22:6

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

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

These classes provide young people the opportunity to understand and grow in the teachings of Holy Scripture, thus building on the foundation given them in their Holy Baptism, preparing them for the Rite of Confirmation, which is held during the spring for the 8th grade confirmands. They:

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

What is taught during Confirmation?

6th Grade

The Bible: Old Testament
The Bible: New Testament

7th Grade

The Ten Commandments
The Lord’s Prayer
Baptism

8th Grade

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

CONFIRMATION RETREATS

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

FALL

We host a 6th grade fall retreat and a separate 7th & 8th grade fall retreat. These retreats are held at church. A highlight for the 6th graders is making creation pizza with Pastor. The 7th & 8th graders enjoy the evening worship service, sleeping overnight at church and playing games.

WINTER

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

SPRING

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

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

CONFIRMATION YOUTH

6th – 8th graders

Weekly Activities

Sunday School – every Sunday at 9:20 am; meets in Room 208

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

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

9th – 12th graders

Weekly Activities

Sunday School – every Sunday at 9:20 am

Midweek – every Wednesday at 6:45 pm

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

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

At Midweek, high school students have fun playing games and hearing a short devotion. During the fall and spring, we like to meet outside. High school also hosts service projects, like Jesus' Birthday Party and College Care Package Packing Night, for the younger children who are in Kids Club.

Each month during the school year, there are special high school youth events, such as Youth Worship, service projects, fundraisers, the annual lock out, and more.

MIDWEEK

High School Youth meet outside, in the Youth Room, or in the Fellowship Hall from 6:45 pm until 8:00 pm on Wednesdays during the school year.

Midweek is about building a faith community through...

- a casual, cheerful atmosphere,
- group games & activities to foster a sense of belonging within our church family, and
- Christ-centered devotions

The group is always focused on Jesus Christ our Savior!

Typical activities include playing kickball, group games, watching a movie, walking to Heyn's for ice cream, exploring biblical topics in a book club, and studying the Bible.

Friends are always welcome!



LIVE NATIVITY



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

The scene consists of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and an angel portrayed by the high school students.

This event attracts many members of our community and is a great way to proclaim the birth of our Savior!

All high school youth are encouraged to participate in this community outreach event.

The Live Nativity will be on **Sunday, December 10** from 4:00 am - 6:00 pm.

SUMMER SERVANT EVENT – UKANDU



UKANDU is the summer servant event for high school youth at Our Redeemer. Participants can expect to serve alongside 200 other people from a variety of churches to bring the love of Jesus to the people of inner-city Chicago.

UKANDU is a Christian mission organization dedicated to helping youth and adults become the heart and hands of Christ to those in need around the world.

The philosophy comes from Scripture and is reflected in its name. *“I (You) CAN DO all things through Christ who strengthens me”* ~ Philippians 4:13 and *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* ~ Ephesians 2:10.

Dates for UKANDU 2024 are **June 22 – 29, 2024.**

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING (NYG)



The LCMS National Youth Gathering (NYG) is for high school students. Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

This international event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in St. Louis. At Our Redeemer, we take a group of high school students, parent/adult chaperones, and Young Adult Volunteers (college-age adults who are official YAVs for the Gathering) on a 10-day trip to participate in the Gathering. During the five days at the Gathering, we spend time together in God’s Word, worship, service, and fellowship with 25,000+ other Lutherans from across the world.

The next **LCMS Youth Gathering** will be held in New Orleans in July 2025. Registration will begin September 2024.

FUNDRAISING and PRIZE ACCOUNTS

The Confirmation and High School youth and their families host two annual fundraisers each year: the **Youth Colorado Peach Fundraiser** and the **Youth Pie Sale**.

Profits from the **Youth Peach Fundraiser** and **Youth Pie Sale** support the Confirmation and High School youth events and activities, including Confirmation Retreats, the LCMS Youth Gathering, and Servant Events.



The **Youth Peach Fundraiser** is the *primary fundraiser* for the youth and earns the largest amount of money to support the youth program. Many people in our community, as well as our congregation, look forward to our peach sale each summer. ALL youth families are expected to help sell peaches and volunteer on Peach Pickup Day in order to make this fundraiser successful.



The Youth Pie Sale is hosted each November. Youth families make 100+ homemade fruit pies in a four-hour morning work session to sell to our congregation. Each youth (6th – 12th grade) has the opportunity to earn money by helping with these fundraisers. Money earned will be added to each youth's church **Prize Account**.

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

Any questions, please contact the Youth Coordinator at youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org.



Mission Statement

The mission of our Children's Ministry is to nurture and support families, equipping them for a lifetime of learning, praying, and celebrating God's love in every aspect of life.

CRADLE ROLL

Children are given several gifts at baptism. Baptism is more than a ceremony, more than a tradition, more than a christening (like a ship). Baptism is being brought into God's family. In order to remember the promises of forgiveness and the washing away of sin at baptism, each baptized child is given a baptism medallion, a personalized baptism banner, an embroidered linen baptismal napkin, and the book *Our Faith from A to Z* by Ruth M. Meyer.





OUR REDEEMER PRESCHOOL

Our Redeemer Preschool has been fulfilling the educational and spiritual needs of children in the Iowa City area since 1981.

Our Redeemer Preschool desires to nurture children with Christ as the center of their lives. Our philosophy is to provide a Christ-centered atmosphere that allows children to observe, make choices, be active, explore, and experiment.

We use the "One in Christ" Christian curriculum to share the gift of the Gospel message of Christ Jesus, along with "Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum for furthering handwriting skills.

Our Mission

- To introduce and reinforce the basic Christian truths about God who made and cares for us, and about Jesus who always loves and forgives us.
- To encourage each child to grow physically, academically, socially, and spiritually.
- To give ample opportunities for independent, self-initiated activities, as well as opportunities for peer interaction and cooperation.
- To promote learning through play, "One in Christ" Curriculum is used. Teachers engage students according to where they are developmentally and help them grow.

ADMISSION STATEMENT

Our Redeemer Christian Preschool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, or other school-administered programs.

AGES

The preschool serves children of Our Redeemer and our community who are between the ages of 3 and 5, toilet-trained, and not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

SESSIONS

Classes run from after Labor Day through Memorial Day for age 3 - PreKindergarten year.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$232/Month

Tuesday/Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$170/Month

5 Days
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$384/Month

** For Extended Care Options, contact the Director.*

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

Our Redeemer Christian Preschool is fully licensed by the State of Iowa.

Contact Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller, at 319-338-3949 or preschool@ourredeemer.org.

KIDS CLUB



Kids Club is a Gospel-centered midweek program for children age 4 through 5th grade. As part of Our Redeemer's dedication to "equipping disciples to make disciples for Jesus", we are excited to host Kids Club where children hear the saving Gospel truth about Jesus. For more information about our Kids Club, please contact the church office 319-338-5626 or redeemer@ourredeemer.org.

Every Wednesday evening at Kids Club, the children hear Bible stories, learn Bible verses, and sing songs. Other activities include games, crafts, and mission projects. Snacks are provided. Kids Club provides children with fun and enriching midweek Christian activities, as well as fellowship with their church family.

REGISTRATION

Registration can be done online by using this link:

<https://forms.gle/yniupivrMgKWKn3D7>

or by contacting the church office at 319-338-5626 or emailing redeemer@ourredeemer.org.

CALENDAR

Kids Club begins on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. We meet every Wednesday night from 6:45 pm until 8:00 pm. The last night of Kids Club will be Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

CANCELLATION

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

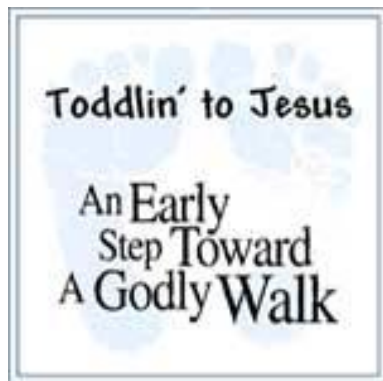
SNACKS

A light snack will be provided. Please note any food allergies.

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

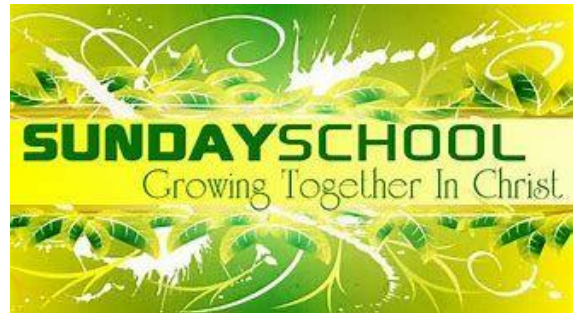
See church map on page 56 of this booklet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



It is never too early to strengthen our relationship with God and to share that special bond with our children. We realize how difficult it can be to participate in church services and activities with little ones in tow. Yet, it is extremely important not to hinder these children from the benefits the church family can provide. Thus, we have developed a special time just for you and your little ones and "little ones to be" during the Sunday School hour, starting at 9:20 am during the school year.

Children aged birth to before they start preschool, accompanied by their parents, as well as expectant parents, are invited to participate in ***Toddlin' to Jesus***. You will be able to meet with other parents and children for Bible study, prayer, singing, and playing. For more information about ***Toddlin' to Jesus***, please email the church office at redeemer@ourredeemer.org or call 319-338-5626.



On Sunday mornings, children ages 3-years through 8th grade attend classes to help them develop an "Enduring Faith." Our 3-year-old and 4-year-old preschoolers meet in their assigned classroom at 9:20 am. Kindergarten through 8th grade students meet at 9:20 am in the choir room for music and attend class from 9:30-10:15 am.

Our classrooms are bursting with energy and excitement for learning true Bible knowledge. Each week, students hear the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection and are exposed to a wide range of Bible stories. Our lesson time also includes drama, crafts, various lesson-related activities, and memory work. Sunday school is held year-round, except for select holidays and other special church events. Look in our weekly ***Reflections*** for further announcements. For more information, contact the church office at redeemer@ourredeemer.org or call 319-338-5626.

Classroom Locations

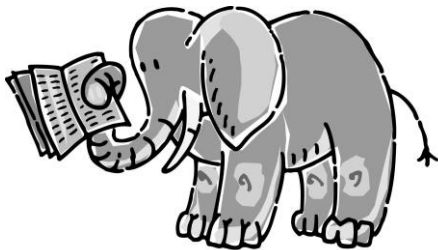
See church map on page 56 of this booklet.

MEMORY WORK

In building a strong foundation of faith for our children, we believe it is important to begin teaching some of the core components of the catechism and Bible memory verses at an early age. These are taught in the classroom lesson times.

What are the benefits of memory work?

- We use memory work for our everyday experiences.
- Certain facts must be memorized for quick recall and retrieval.
- Memory can become part of our life and this memorized information can be internalized and become part of a student's life patterns and belief system.
- Memory work can assist students to think more sharply and utilize and apply information.



Memory Verse

Benefits of memorizing Scripture passages, hymns, books of the Bible:

- When this is accomplished, we can look up/quote Scripture more easily.
- Selected Scripture and hymns can be recited to give strength and encouragement in times of distress and pain.
- Memorization reminds the students of their beliefs and provides strength to live accordingly.
- It has learning potential.

What is Our Redeemer's goal? Memory selections:

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

On Sunday School Sunday, May 12, 2024, Pastor leads a special celebration during the Sunday School "hour". Each class will share its memory verses with the congregation during the worship services.

Memory Assignments	
Toddlin'	Jesus Loves Me song
PreK 3 & 4	Exodus 3:12
K & 1 st Grade	Psalms 119:105
2 nd & 3 rd Grade	John 3:16
4 th & 5 th Grade	Books of the Bible (Old & New Testament)
6/7/8 th Grade	The Ten Commandments
High School	Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 23

Recognizing the differences in memorizing ability, we find it extremely important to teach not only portions of Scripture, but also how and where to find Scripture when needed, equipping students for their lifetime of spiritual growth and learning.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & LUNCH



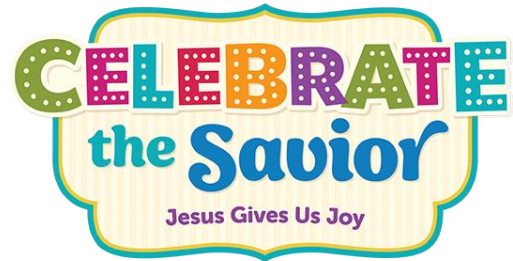
Children in Kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to participate in our annual Children's Christmas Service. This program, to be held on Sunday, December 10, 2023 during both the 8:00 and 10:30 am services, offers children an opportunity to actively share the Good News of our Savior's birth.

Children in the PreK 3 & 4 will learn and practice songs in their classroom and will share them at the beginning of the Children's Christmas Service.

Older children will learn songs for the program during Sunday School music time in October and November. There will be two Saturday morning practices on December 2 & 9, 2023, as well. More information will be given in October.

The program is followed by a soup luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, email the church office at redeemer@ourredeemer.org or call 319-338-5626.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



August 4 - 8, 2024

Children age 4 years through 8th grade enjoy a fantastic week here at Our Redeemer each summer. The transformation from church home to VBS theme is amazing!

Each year, families are excited to see if they will be walking into the midst of a jungle, beach, desert, mountains, or even outer space!

Our evenings begin with a free meal, then an opening, which is followed by Jesus-centered Bible lessons, creative crafts, engaging games, themed snacks, lively music, Bible memory work, and Christian fellowship.

Volunteers are always needed to help in various positions. For more information, contact the church office at redeemer@ourredeemer.org or call 319-338-5626.



Service Connections:

ASSIMILATION

Assimilation Committee seeks to ensure that they are connecting members to Jesus, His Word, and each other, reflecting His love in word and deed. The purpose of the group is to welcome new members and provide ways for them and current members to get to know each other through church activities. The team encourages connections and involvement through visits, special gatherings, phone calls, and friendly conversation. They help new and current members realize their gifts and talents so they can grow in the knowledge of how they can serve God.

New member brunch is scheduled for October 15, 2023.

ASSIMILATION PARTICIPATION

The committee typically meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

For more information, contact Pam Wilson at 319-530-1920 or markpamwilson@msn.com.

HEALTH MINISTRIES



This ministry is a Christian service shaped by Christ's concern for all aspects of the human condition, and directed to the service of the whole person. Health Ministries responds to the health needs of the congregation and promotes wellness of the body, mind, and spirit.

Members with health concerns who would like a visit should contact the church office at 319-338-5626.

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

HUMAN CARE

The Human Care Committee has been active at Our Redeemer for many years. The Committee is quite popular and active, probably because the projects we are involved with are rewarding and fun.

Our present activities include:

PRIME TIME DINNER

Sunday, November 5, 2023

12:00 pm

The committee hosts a dinner each fall, with entertainment and/or raffles, for members 60 years of age and older. At the dinner we recognize those who have “special” birthdays during the past year. Special birthdays are 75, 80, 85, 90, etc. We also serve a Wednesday night Advent meal and Lenten meal.

MITTEN TREE

Members of our congregation donate mittens, scarves, snow pants, and hats. The committee donates them to the Iowa City School District for distribution to students who need them. Notices will be put in *Reflections* and *Beacon* and signs will be posted.

COMMUNITY BIN IN THE NARTHEX

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

COMMUNITY SPREAD THE LOVE CAMPAIGN

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

SOCTOBER

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

EMERGENCY FUNDS

Funds are available through our committee as a grant or a loan for members of Our Redeemer who may be experiencing a short-term emergency. Examples could be a fire, loss of job, medical emergency, etc., when a few extra dollars could help carry someone through. Requests for funds should be made by contacting Pastor Hartwig who will then contact the appropriate people from the Human Care Committee.

BIRTHDAY CARDS

Cards, signed by the members of the committee, are sent to congregation members 70 years of age and older.

SYMPATHY CARDS

Cards sent to the families of members of the congregation who have passed away.

CARE PROJECT

This is a program where members of Our Redeemer can contact us if they need some short-time help, such as a ride, small household chores, etc. We have a volunteer list of people who are willing to help when a request is made.

UNDIES SUNDAY

This campaign runs the entire month of June. Members of our congregation donate clean/new underwear for men, women, and children. The committee donates collected items to the Iowa City Shelter House. We are proud and thankful to have Our Redeemer leading the way in being the first to establish this type of campaign for much-needed and most-requested items benefitting the homeless.

CONTACT

The committee meets on a monthly basis. For more information, contact Tracy Nelson at 319-530-7432.

MISSION

The Mission Committee's focus is emphasizing our Lord's Great Commission:



"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations..." ~ Matthew 28:19a

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

In past years, the Mission Committee organized short-term mission trips to a variety of domestic and international locations. The Mission Committee's efforts are presently being directed toward the Panama Mission, Eswatini, and UKANDU, all of which are being directly supported by Our Redeemer.

The six-week season of Easter will include penny voting for the congregation to determine distribution of budgeted church mission funds.

A mission speaker lunch is planned for October 22. Watch Reflections for more information.

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

CONTACT

For more information about the Mission Committee, contact Bob Powers at baronvonpowers@gmail.com or 319-338-9651.

OUTREACH



The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to follow the Great Commission of our Savior Jesus who commanded, *“therefore go and make disciples of all nations”* ~Matthew 28:19a. We are about equipping disciples for Jesus. A Christian disciple is one who trusts in Jesus as his/her Savior and follows Jesus to spread the Gospel of salvation to others so that they also become disciples of Jesus.

As a committee, we are here to provide opportunities for the members of Our Redeemer to reach out to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and community with the message of forgiveness, life, and salvation that comes only through Jesus Christ.

“And let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
~Hebrews 10:24-25

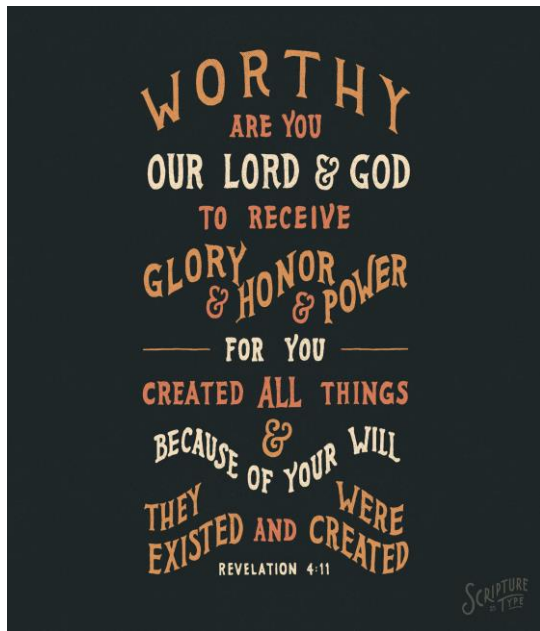
What does the Outreach Committee do to provide opportunities for members to reach out to others? Some of what we do:

- Pancake Day: this event raises funds for local, national, and international missions. Committee members assist with greeting and welcoming people as well as helping with set up, serving, and clean up.
- Christ Cares Sunday: serve our community in multiple ways such as:
 - Ronald McDonald House meal and stock the pantry
 - Landscaping at multiple locations
 - Bingo and music with assisted living residents
 - Appreciation baskets for firemen and police
 - Shirts for the military serving overseas
 - Make greeting cards
 - Etc.
- 4th of July Parade Float: hand out bottles of water with a Bible verse
- Fun Faith Fest – provide worship, food, fun, games, and fellowship for our community.
- City High Homecoming Parade: serve hot dogs and chips to the community.
- Engage congregation and preschool in making/signing Christmas cards and delivering them to senior living facilities.
- Live Nativity: serve cookies, hot cocoa, and cider to our community.
- Preschool Mailers: co-fund two preschool mailers which include Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas schedules.
- Visitor Letters: send letters or emails to visitors who worship with us.

- New this year: Angel Tree Project which provides opportunities for Our Redeemer members to purchase and wrap Christmas gifts for children with a parent in prison.

We encourage Our Redeemer members to use these opportunities, as well as Trivia, Vacation Bible School, and other activities to reach out and invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others. As we reach out to others to meet some of their needs, we can then share Jesus with them.

For more information, contact Arlan Thompson, chairman of the Outreach Committee, at 319-338-2938.



PROPERTIES



The Church Properties Committee is responsible for directing the upkeep and maintenance of the church, church grounds, vicarage, and parsonage within an annual budget approved at the November Voters' Meeting. Work is completed by the property maintenance manager, contract labor, or volunteer labor. The committee is responsible for delegating the work to be done and directing the solicitation of bids for completion of work that cannot be managed through church resources. The property maintenance manager is responsible for oversight of all contracted work.

Administrative Connections:

BEACON

Our monthly church newsletter, *Beacon*, is designed as a summary of events and activities, a quick look at upcoming events, informational articles, and an activity calendar for the Body of Christ here at Our Redeemer.

The name of the newsletter comes from Matthew 5:14: *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."* Notice the skylight at the top of the sanctuary. From this place, we shine our Gospel light into the community. Not just the building, but we the people are the light in this community.

*We encourage regular reading
of this publication.*

The *Beacon* can be found on the website (www.ourredeemer.org) under the publications tab and a link is emailed each month. Paper form is available on the last Sunday of the month, replacing *Reflections* that week.

Submissions are due to the church office no later than 5:00 pm on the 20th of each month. Contact our Office Coordinator, Lorrie Bailey at 319-338-5626 or email redeemer@ourredeemer.org.



CARD SHOP

LWML hosts a Christian card shop located just outside the Fellowship Hall. This service is available to provide low-cost Christian messages of encouragement, hope, concern, and joy.

Payment box is located on the wall to the left of the display. For more information, contact Kathy Folkmann at 319-354-0480.

COMMUNICATION CABINETS

To provide a way to stay in communication with one another, each member family of Our Redeemer is assigned a communication box located in the hallway opposite the nursery.

If you do not yet have a box assigned to your family or you have further questions, please contact our Office Coordinator, Lorrie Bailey, at 319-338-5626.

COMMUNICATION RACKS

Previous and current issues of *Beacon*, *Reflections*, sermon notes, *IDE Today*, *Lutheran Digest*, and other important communications can be found on communication racks inside the church office.

DEVOTIONS

Many resources are available to help with personal and group devotions. Copies of *Portals of Prayer*, *My Devotions*, and *Happy Times* can be found in the office. Additional devotional materials can also be found in the Church Library. If you need assistance finding the right materials for you, contact the church office at 319-338-5626.

LIBRARY

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

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

Kelli Kucera 319-512-6789

Shana Stuart 319-321-9804

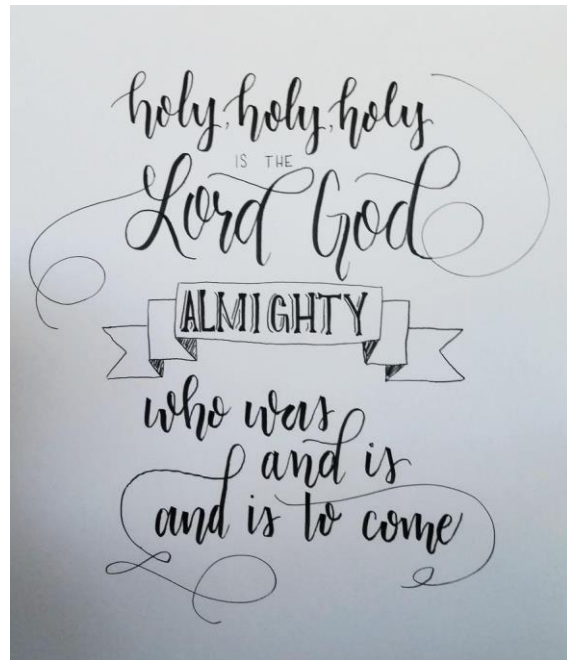
REFLECTIONS

Our weekly church newsletter *Reflections* helps us reflect on how God is working within the Body of Christ here at Our Redeemer.

We encourage regular reading of the up-to-date information in this publication.

Reflections is emailed each week and can be found on the wire rack in the office or located online at www.ourredeemer.org under the publications tab. It is replaced the last Sunday of the month with the *Beacon*.

Submissions are due to the church office no later than 5:00 pm each Wednesday. Contact our Office Coordinator, Lorrie Bailey, at 319-338-5626.



THEME SONG

Revelation Song (Story of Everything)

1. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;
Holy, holy is He;
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat.
(Repeat)

Chorus

- Holy, holy, holy
Is the Lord God almighty.
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of Kings;
Story of everything
And I will adore you.
2. Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lighting, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and
Glory and power be to You,
The only wise King.

Chorus

3. Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,
At the mention of Your Name;
Jesus, Your name is power,
Breath and living water,
Such a marv'lous mystery.

Chorus X2

CCLI Song #4447960, 2004 Gateway
Create Pub. CCLI License #495913

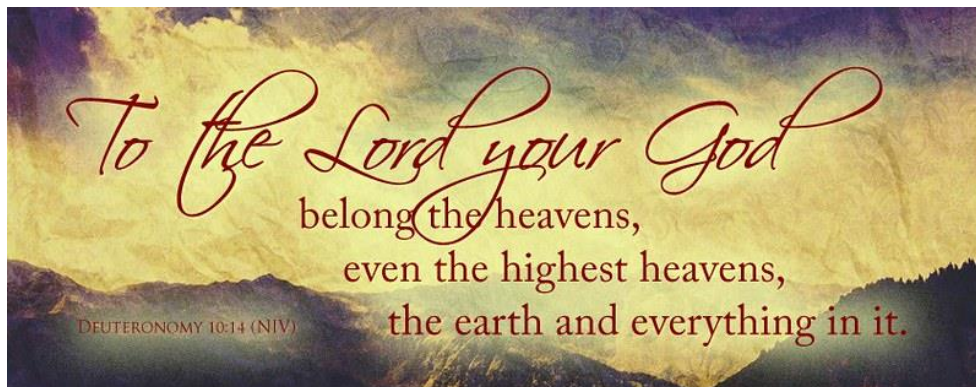
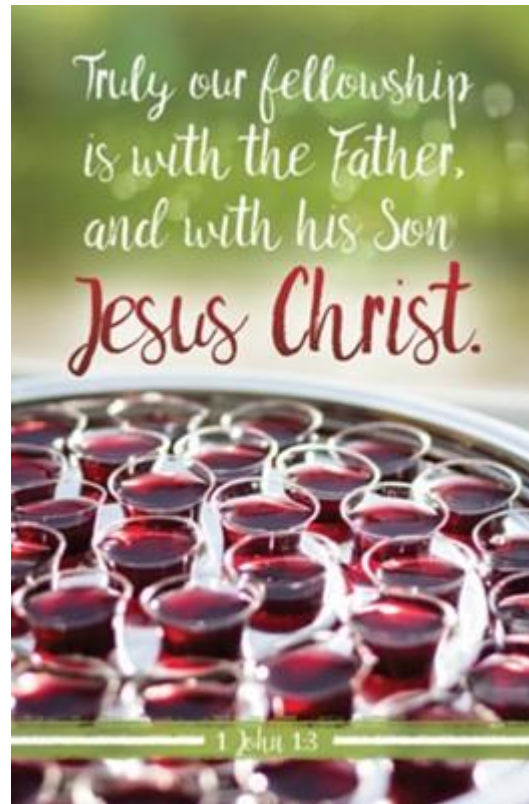
THEME VERSES

Bible Verses:

- *1 Corinthians 8:6* - yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
- *Psalms 90:2* - Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- *Hebrews 1:2* - but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
- *Colossians 1:16* - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
- *Isaiah 45:12* - I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.
- *Revelation 4:11* - "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."
- *Nehemiah 9:6* - "You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and

you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

- *Isaiah 45:18* - For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- *John 1:1-3* - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- *Psalms 24:1-2* - The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
- *Deuteronomy 10:14* - Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.



Worship Connections:



The Story of Everything (Stewardship Series)

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

September 24, 2023

October 29, 2023

November 12, 2023





Advent Sunday 1: December 3, 2023
Wait Till Your Father Comes Home!
(Isaiah 64:1–9)

Advent Sunday 2: December 10, 2023
It's Time to Wake Up!
(Romans 13:11–14)

Advent Sunday 3: December 17, 2023
He Will Return
(Luke 21:25–36)

Advent Sunday: December 24, 2023
Something Is About to Happen
(Mark 13:33–37)

It's About Time! (Advent Sermon Series)

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Luke 21:34-36). It's about time!





Let my People Go! The Book of Exodus (Lenten Sermon Series)

The series ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus' passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of His saving work for us, the breadth and depth of His love for us, and the strength of His union with us.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and so does the emphasis of this sermon series on Moses's book called Exodus. God's salvation of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times!

Throughout Exodus, God reveals who He is through His absence and His presence, through silence and speech, through wrath and mercy, and through His judgment and His amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus, especially as we follow Him along the way to Golgotha and the empty tomb.

Ash Wednesday: February 14, 2024
"Big Things with Small Stuff" (Ex 2:1–10)

Lent One: February 21, 2024
"How God Changes Us" (Ex 3:1–14)

Lent Two: February 28, 2024
"Stop Trying and Start Trusting"
(Ex 14:1–29)

Lent Three: March 6, 2024
"Strike the Rock!" (Ex 17:1–7)

Lent Four: March 13, 2024
"Mine!" (Ex 20:1–17)

Lent Five: March 20, 2024
"Digging Ourselves into a Hole"
(Ex 32:1–14)

Palm Sunday: March 24, 2024
"A New Beginning!" (Ex 34:1–8)

Maundy Thursday: March 28, 2024
"Access!" (Ex 24:1–11)

Good Friday: March 29, 2024
"Agnus Dei" (Ex 12:1–13)

Easter: March 31, 2024
"Against all Odds!" (Ex 15:1–18)



***Confirmation will be held on
Sunday, April 28, 2024.***

ADVENT AND LENTEN SUPPERS



All are invited to come!

During the seasons of Advent and Lent, various groups and individuals prepare dinner for the congregation prior to these special worship services.

Advent dinners are on the three Wednesdays prior to Christmas, and Lenten dinners are on the five Wednesdays prior to Easter.

Dinner is served at 5:10 pm with a special worship service at 6:10 pm. There is no cost, only a free-will donation to cover expenses.

Advent Dinners

Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Lenten Dinners

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

LENTEN PRAYER WALK

Lent is a time of reflection. Join us for a time of focused prayer. In small groups or individually, journey from prayer station to prayer station focusing on the life and death of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Prayer Walk is specifically on the Wednesday, March 27, 2024, of Passion Week.

ACOLYTES

It is expected that all Confirmation students (grades 6-8) serve as acolytes.

The word “acolyte” means “follower” or “attendant.” It refers to the fact that the acolyte is assisting the pastor in the worship service in very specific ways.

Here at Our Redeemer, the acolytes light the candles. Acolyte training happens during Confirmation Orientation.

ADULT CHOIR

Anyone of high school age and older who enjoys singing is encouraged to join! Rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 6:45 pm, starting August 30, 2023, through early May. The choir sings regularly for worship services. If you are interested in details, please contact Louise Klopp at choirdirector@ourredeemer.org.

BAPTISM

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

~ Matthew 28:19-20



We believe the Bible teaches that a person is saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is one of the miraculous means of grace through which God creates and/or strengthens the gift of faith.

This Sacrament, explicitly commanded by God with His precious promises attached to it, is a powerful means of grace by which God grants faith and the forgiveness of sins.

Anyone wishing to be baptized should contact Pastor Hartwig.

Expectant parents are encouraged to contact Pastor Hartwig with their expected due date so that a baptismal date may be scheduled.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

As we come to our church home to nurture and support one another, a special fellowship time is available after 8:00 am worship prior to Bible Study.

Our fellowship area is located in the Gathering Place, where coffee and treats are hosted each week by different groups or individuals.

If you or your group would like to host, please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place.

HANDBELL CHOIR

If you are high school age or older, and can read music, the Handbell Choir is looking for you! The director, Louise Klopp, will send out potential dates for practice and Sunday music. Please let her know if you are interested in participating.

For details, please contact Louise Klopp at choirdirector@ourredeemer.org.

NURSERY

We are pleased to have children at worship and encourage families to bring them. The nursery will be available to families needing a changing table, rocking chair, or toddler bathroom.

ORGAN AND PIANO

Our Redeemer is blessed to have Marilyn Paetz as a staff organist. Likewise, we are blessed that Barb Schanbacher serves as pianist for the Gracious Beginnings Divine Service on Saturdays. Thank you for using your talents and skills in glory to God.

If you have the talent and skill of playing either the organ or piano, please let Pastor Hartwig know. With vacations, illnesses, and life-challenges, there could be a time we need a substitute. Or we could benefit from music provided during the offering.

PRAISE TEAM

The Praise Team enhances worship with contemporary music during the 10:30 am service on Sunday morning. The group introduces new music and traditional favorites to the worship service. Rehearsals are scheduled on a week-to-week basis, often at 8:00 am Sunday mornings.

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

PRAYER CHAIN

Jesus instructed us to pray and assures us in Matthew 18:19: *“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”*

A prayer chain is a list of people who agree to pray for a loved one during a troubled time. This prayer chain consists of members from Our Redeemer who have seen the power of prayer in the life of God’s people.

If you would like to become a member of the prayer chain, contact the church office at 319-338-5626 or Skip Kempnich at 319-351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemer.org.

If you would like the group to offer prayers on your behalf, for a loved one or for any special needs you may have, contact the church office at 338-5626 or Skip Kempnich at prayerchain@ourredeemer.org or 319-351-5297.

When requesting a prayer, be sure to indicate if you would or would not want the prayer to be included in the public worship services.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Music is God’s greatest gift. It has often so stimulated and stirred me that I felt the desire to preach,” said Martin Luther. And he also stated, “Music is an outstanding gift of God.” We invite you to use your musical talents during our Divine Worship Services. This invitation includes our youth.

Please contact Louise Klopp to let her know what you would like to do musically during our worship services. You can contact Louise at choirdirector@ourredeemer.org.



TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANTS



We are fortunate to have some of the latest technology devices to enhance our worship experience.

Our sound, projection and camera systems help us hear the Word, message, and music more clearly during the service and also allow us to live stream most services each week. These can then be accessed via YouTube at a later date.

Our projection system permits a hands-free worship environment and also aids a visitor not familiar with our liturgies to more easily follow along.

A volunteer is needed at each service to put the correct slide on the screens at the right time. The services are set up on the computer prior to the service by the Director of Technology. Advancing the slides for the screens is not complicated. There are only a few buttons to learn.

A second volunteer is needed at the sound board during services.

A third volunteer is needed to operate the cameras for the service being recorded and for other special services.

Please consider helping in this area!
Training is available at any time on any of the equipment. Contact the Director of Technology, Kevin Sellers, at 319-631-8924 or at technology@ourredeemer.org.

USHERS

Ushers are an important part of our Sunday services.

Ushers volunteer to serve regularly at one service per month. Contact Dave Fruendt (319-338-5546) about early service and Dave Hintze (319-351-5873) about late service.



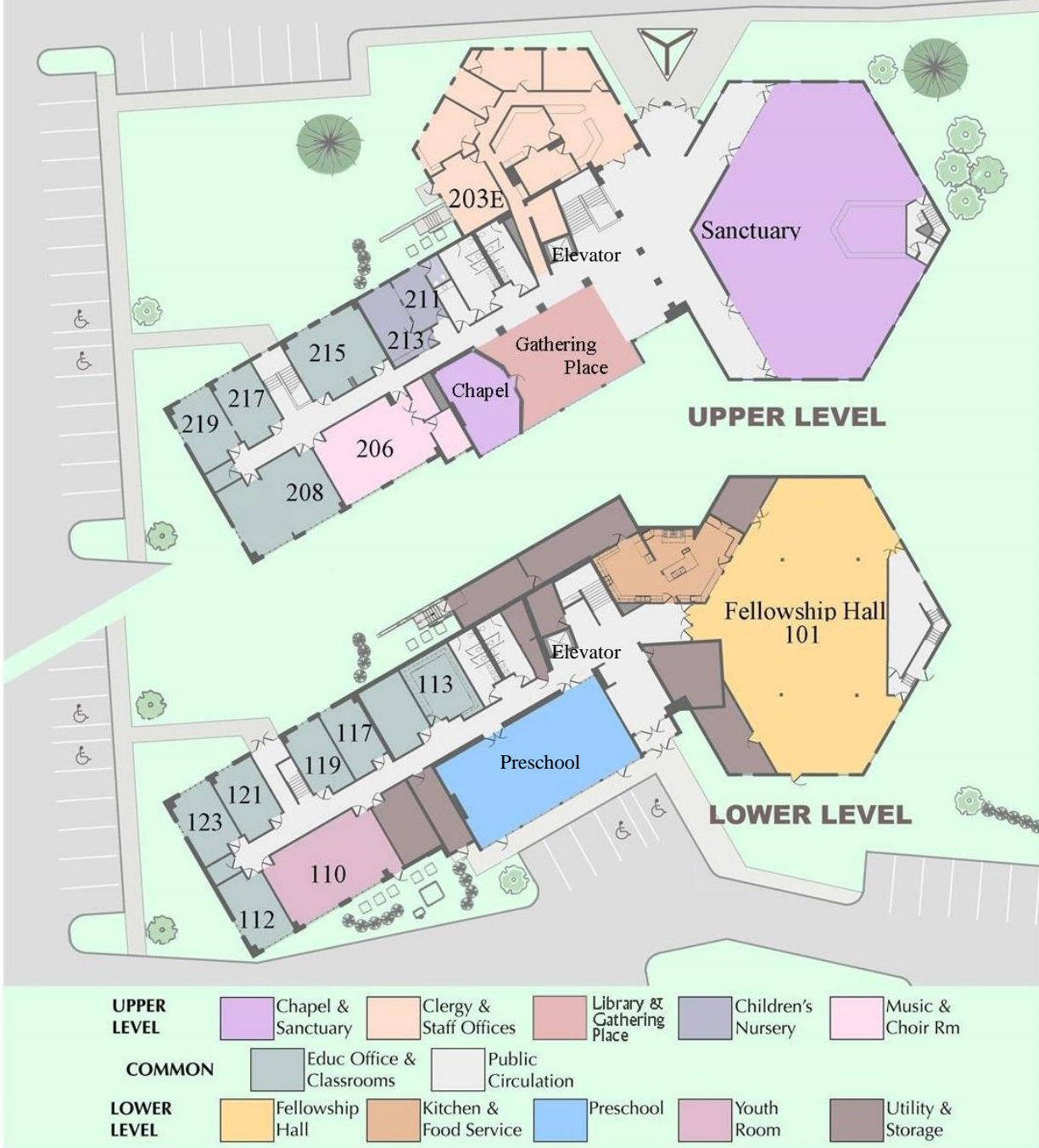
An up-to-date 2023-2024 Calendar

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

Printed copies of the monthly calendar are available when the **Beacon** comes out. They will be on the office counter that weekend and for the month following.

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

Directory



Sunday Morning Classrooms:

Age/Grade	Room Number
Toddlin' to Jesus (0-2 Year Olds)	215-Classroom (Toddlin')
Pre-K3 & Pre-K4	219-Classroom
Kindergarten & 1 st Grade	217-Classroom
2 nd & 3 rd Grades	117-Classroom
4 th & 5 th Grades	121-Classroom
6 th /7 th /8 th Grades	208-Classroom (Adult Ed)
High School	110-Youth Room
Adult	101-Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Classrooms:

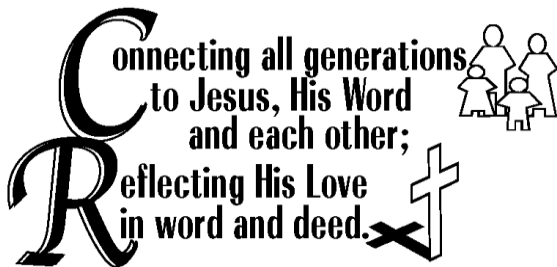
Age/Grade	Room Number
4 years – 5 th Grade – Kids Club	215-Classroom (Toddlin')
6 th Grade Small Group, Girls 8 th Grade Small Group, Girls	117-Classroom
6 th Grade Small Group, Boys 8 th Grade Small Group, Boys	119-Classroom
7 th Grade Small Group, Boys	121-Classroom
7 th Grade Lecture 7 th Grade Small Group, Girls	123-Classroom
6 th Grade Lecture 8 th Grade Lecture	112-Classroom
High School	110-Youth Room or outdoors
Adult	208-Classroom



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Our Mission:

"This is what we do"



Our Vision:

"This is where the Spirit is taking us"

Our Redeemer Congregation is a grace-filled, God-glorifying community of believers devoted to Word, fellowship, Sacraments, and prayer; committed to involving more people in ministry so that the Body of Christ would be built up for service to others as we reach out to more people with the Gospel.

Our Motto:

"This is what we are about"

**Equipping Disciples
to make Disciples
for Jesus.**

THESE ARE THE VALUES THAT MATTER TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR REDEEMER:

CHRIST-CENTERED, Bible-based

We are a Christ-centered and Bible-based church which desires that all generations be intimately connected to Jesus and His Word. (John 14:6)

Caring Small Groups

We believe spiritual growth and caring communities are most effective in small groups which include Word, Prayer, Fellowship, and Service. (Acts 2:42, 46-47)

Everlasting Life through GRACE

We believe that it is by God's grace that we are saved eternally and that it is by God's grace that we are equipped to serve here and now.

(2 Cor. 5:14-21)

Neighbor to Neighbor: Gifted to Serve

We believe in helping people discover, develop, and use their spiritual gifts and in providing opportunities for people to use their resources, gifts, and skills in service to others to the Lord's glory. (1 Cor. 12)

Together WE Worship

We believe in offering vibrant, genuine worship in Word and Sacrament with a variety of styles to the glory of God and the edification of His people. (John 4:24)

Encouraging in Loving Relationships

We believe that caring and loving relationships should permeate every aspect of family, church, and community life. (Eph. 4:11-16)

Reflecting Jesus' Love

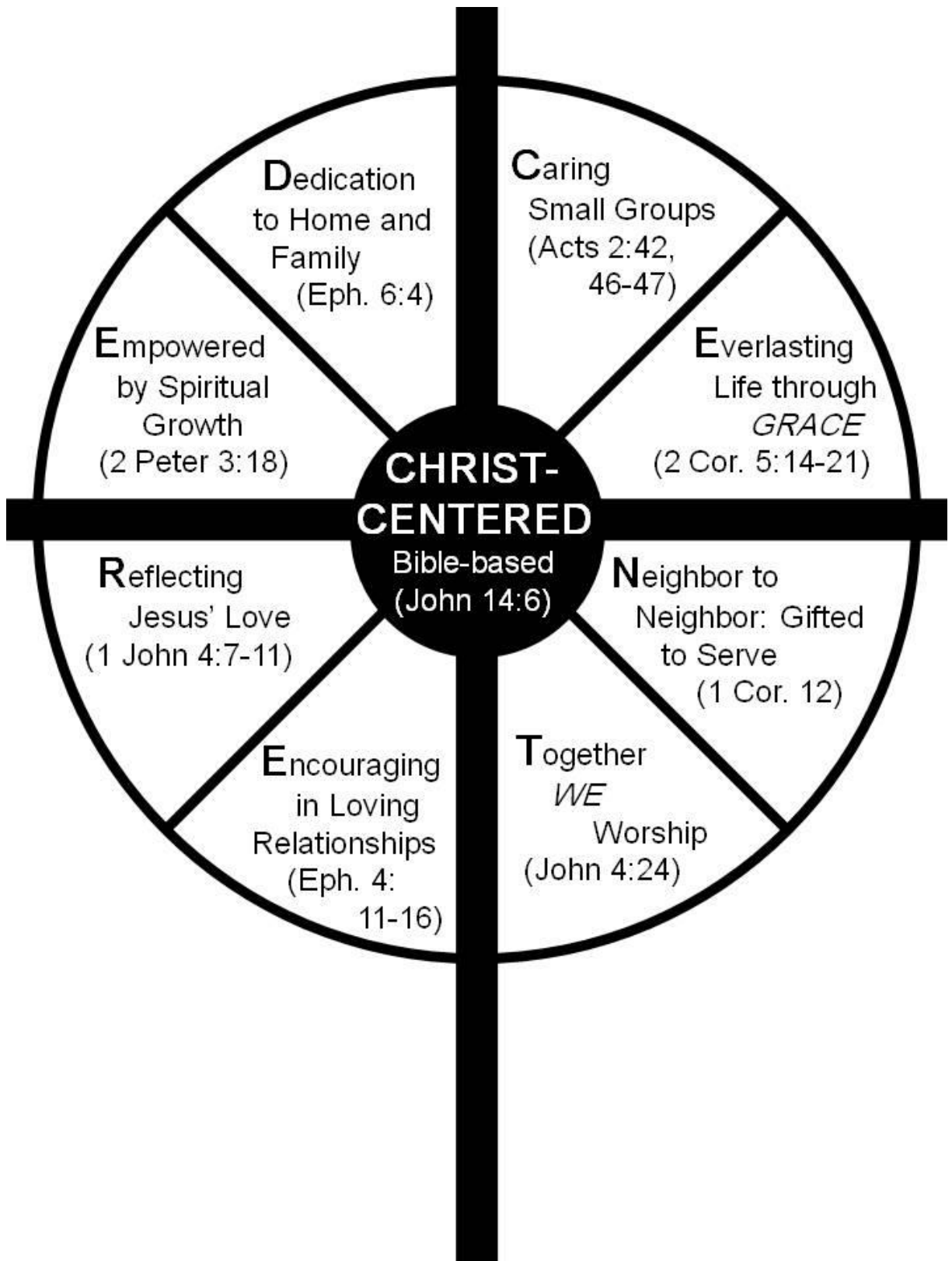
We believe that all of us—individually and corporately—are to reflect Jesus' unconditional love in word and deed, living the Christian life as followers (disciples) of Christ. (1 John 4:7-11)

Empowered by Spiritual Growth

We believe in the continued spiritual growth of our own members and those in our community through the offering of various Christian Education opportunities for all ages. (2 Pet. 3:18)

Dedication to Home and Family

We believe that the home/family is the essential agency for Christian education in our society and that the church is God's plan to provide support for the family. (Eph. 6:4)



Worship Services

Gracious Beginnings

Saturday 5:30 pm

“From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised” ~ Psalm 113:3. As evening commences, our weekend worship schedule is inaugurated with **gracious beginnings**.

As we casually gather together in this place, we encounter, experience, and express our joy in response to what God has done for us. We worship by hearing God’s Word, remembering baptism, and sharing bread and wine in Jesus’ name while lifting our voices high in prayer and song. The melodic tones of the **piano**, and sometimes more instruments, with its dynamic range direct our voices in worship.

God is Our Foundation

Sunday 8:00 am

We hear that *“no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ,”* the chief cornerstone ~ 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20. Our worship of God is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets as components of the Divine Service liturgy, connecting us with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. Word and Sacrament are **our foundation!**

In this Divine Service, in which the worshiper comes face to face with God and talks to Him as a child to a father, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving from our mind, heart, and voice. Our Casavant tracker **organ** is ideally suited to accompany our voices during this service.

God is Our Hope

Sunday 10:30 am

Psalm 150 encourages us to *“Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.”*

In this Divine Service, a variety of music swells to fill the liturgy. We sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord through Christian music, hymns, and spiritual songs, according to Ephesians 5:19. Receiving the keynote from God, we sing in unison with one voice through Jesus Christ to the Father. As varied as our voices, a **myriad of instruments**—organ, bass, guitar, synthesizer, and drums come together in this Divine Service to harmoniously sing praises to the Lord. All praise, glory, and honor to God because He is **our hope!**

Advent and Lenten Worship

Wednesdays 1:00 pm & 6:10 pm

Prior to the birth of the Bethlehem Babe on Christmas Day and before the death and resurrection of Our Redeemer on Good Friday and Easter, we gather together to meditate upon the importance of the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated on the **first, third, and fifth Sundays and the corresponding Saturdays** of each month.

Live Streamed Services are available on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZqA0kuhQeyMn48_giM2jw

Watch www.ourredeemer.org for changes.