



First Avenue and Court Street  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
Phone: 319-338-5626  
Email: [redeemer@ourredeemer.org](mailto:redeemer@ourredeemer.org)

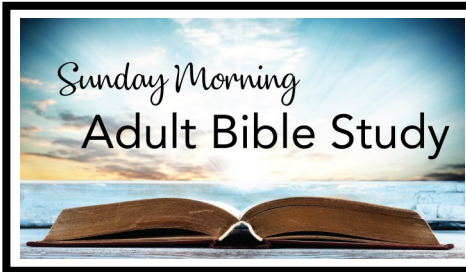

# Reflections



Weekly Newsletter - December 16/17, 2023




*Third Sunday in Advent~*

 <p>Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>December 3-17</b> God in the Jukebox</p>	
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## Sunday School Lessons

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
December 17	Acts 16:16-40	A Soldier Believes—A Philippian Jailer
December 24 & December 31	No Sunday School—Christmas Eve & New Years Eve	

**ALTAR FLOWERS**




Flowers for the altar this weekend are from Mark and Pam Wilson for their 55th (December 21) wedding anniversary.

**Sunday Coffee & Treats**



This Sunday's coffee and treats are being provided by the LWML. Come join us for a little refreshment and fellowship before Sunday School and Adult Bible Class. Free will offering goes toward continued missions.

**CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY WITH POINSETTIAS!**



Help beautify our sanctuary for Christmas. Purchase poinsettias of your choice—all sizes and colors are welcome. Bring them to church by Friday, December 22 (it is best not to bring them too early as care may not be consistent) so that they can be placed in the sanctuary Saturday morning. Poinsettias can be placed on the tables in the board room if you bring them early. Anytime after the Wednesday Advent service you may bring them and place them on the counter in the Gathering Place.

Poinsettias will be arranged Saturday, December 23 at 9:00 am. Volunteers to help are much appreciated!



**Eli Jack Casteel &  
Oliver Valerij Petrulovich  
December 17, 2023**

**Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form  
Third Sunday in Advent (B)  
17 December 2023**

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

Righteous Lord, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we who prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families. Preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by Your Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, You rule over all things in heaven and on earth. Until that day when Your Son comes in glory to usher in His kingdom, give wisdom and insight to all leaders, that we may live peaceable lives. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, many in our midst have been afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties. Be merciful to those who are close to us, [*especially Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), David Caplin (Lillian Moyer's son-in-law), Loren Deetz, Clint Fult (nephew of Robert Siems), Titus Hanneman (nephew of Kate Ramsey), Beth Hargens, Emma Haugen (Friend of Gwen Enokian), Patsy Heinitz, Gabe Hundley (grandson of Karen Abernathy), Dora Jacobson (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), Hazel Jones (Granddaughter of Danny Fuhrmeister), Todd Jones (Barb & Ron Jones' son), Marcia Osborn, Dolores McNatt (Gwen Enokian's mother), Norma Miller (Twyla Freeman's aunt), Julie Pratt-Mullenkamp (Cousin of Ruth Varney), Aaron Raschke (brother of Ruth Varney), John Robinson, Reece Ullerich, Karen Warner, Mark Wilson, and Beth Wu (Schuldt's relative)*] that they may be granted health or strength to endure their afflictions. Help us all to see that when Christ returns in glory, our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when He makes all things new. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, **by your Holy Spirit you teach and strengthen the members of your church. We offer you thanks and praise for the Adult Confirmands who are being confirmed this weekend. Bless our adult confirmands: Eli Casteel and Oliver Petrulevich. Strengthen them in their faith unto life everlasting.** Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Righteous Lord, You instituted marriage between one man and one woman, and we give you thanks for the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Mark and Pam Wilson**. Bless all husbands and wives, strengthening their love between each other and their trust in You their God. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, Your Word says to come to you in prayer. Let us silently pray:

[*silent prayer*]

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

## BIRTHDAYS

Sun. 12/17	Harry Karnes, Sandra Libenguth, Liz Matel, Jeffrey Ohlmann, Cindy Penney, Nathan Recker, Arabella Roiseland
Mon. 12/18	Nickolas Bell, Bailey Bowman
Tues. 12/19	***
Wed. 12/20	Emma Huedepohl, Amber Vandenbosh, Nolan Waters, Avery Yanksy
Thurs. 12/21	Lexus Rozmus, Julie Wardenburg
Fri. 12/22	Tony Faudel, Amy O'Shea, Weley Obermueller, Jennifer Reynolds
Sat. 12/23	Kolby Kucera, Ronald Sexton, Mark Stimmel

### STEWARDSHIP December 9/10, 2023

TIME		TREASURES	
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 12/9—5:30pm	61	Contributions	\$29,408.93
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 12/10—8:00am	234	Monthly needs for budget	\$67,240.58
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 12/10—10:30am	254	Advent Service 12/6—1:00pm	39
Recorded Services 12/9	7	Advent Service 12/6—6:10pm	N/A
Total Saturday/Sunday Worship		Adult Bible Class/Sunday School (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> N/A)	74/19

### This Week at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, December 17—24, 2023

<b><u>Sunday, 12/17</u></b>		<b><u>Wednesday continued...</u></b>	
Worship-In Person/Live Stream	8:00am	Advent Meal	5:10pm
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	9:20am	Sing-a-long	6:00pm
Worship-In Person/Live Stream	10:30am	Advent Worship	6:10pm
Christmas and Cookies	12:00pm	Midweek Classes	6:45pm
		Adult Midweek	7:00pm
<b><u>Monday, 12/18</u></b>			
Staff Christmas Meeting	1:00pm	<b><u>Thursday, 12/21</u></b>	
Chamber Singers	6:00pm	Comfort Tiers	9:00am
Sunlight AA Group	6:00pm	Christ in Film	6:00pm
		Al-Anon	7:30pm
<b><u>Tuesday, 12/19</u></b>			
Solon Nursing Home	9:30am	<b><u>Friday, 12/22</u></b>	
SM-Small Group/Marcia	6:30pm	***	
Al-Anon	7:00pm	<b><u>Saturday, 12/23</u></b>	
		Worship-In Person/Live Stream	5:30pm
<b><u>Wednesday, 12/20</u></b>			
TOPS	8:00am	<b><u>Sunday, 12/24—Christmas Eve</u></b>	
Bible Study	11:00am	Christmas Eve Family Worship	9:30am
Lunch Bunch	12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	3:45pm
Advent Worship	1:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship	4:30pm
Windmill Manor	2:00pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service	6:30pm
		Christmas Eve Communion Service	11:30pm



Extra Advent, and Christmas worship services require many ushers. Please sign up on the welcome counter or contact [consultant@ourredeemer.org](mailto:consultant@ourredeemer.org) to sign up for those services where you can be of assistance. Everyone is needed to help cover services.



**HEY EVERYONE!!!!**

## **Christmas & Cookies**

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**12:00 pm**

Members of Our Redeemer and friends gather together for food, fun, and fellowship. We will enjoy pizza and a short devotion. The main activity will be decorating Christmas cookies to give away as well as take some home. A short Christmas movie will be shown during lunch. God's Word will be shared as we celebrate together the birth of Christ, our Savior.



**Building Healthy Families:** Over the coming holidays we will spend more time together than usual with our families. As you gather, keep a watchful eye out for excessive negative talk including complaining, fault-finding, and passing on gossip. Sharing gossip and negative messages of gloom and doom is not only sinful and dishonoring to our Father, but it also fosters a depressing atmosphere in the home (...and in the workplace...and in the church). Instead, look for the positives and talk about them often! "Whatever is pure, whatever is lovely...think on these things." Philippians 4:8 **Lutheran Family Service** [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)

### **2024 FLOWER CALENDAR**



The 2024 flower calendar is on the bulletin board between the upper level restrooms and the nursery. Sign up to provide altar flowers in celebration of an event, in memory of a loved one, or just because.



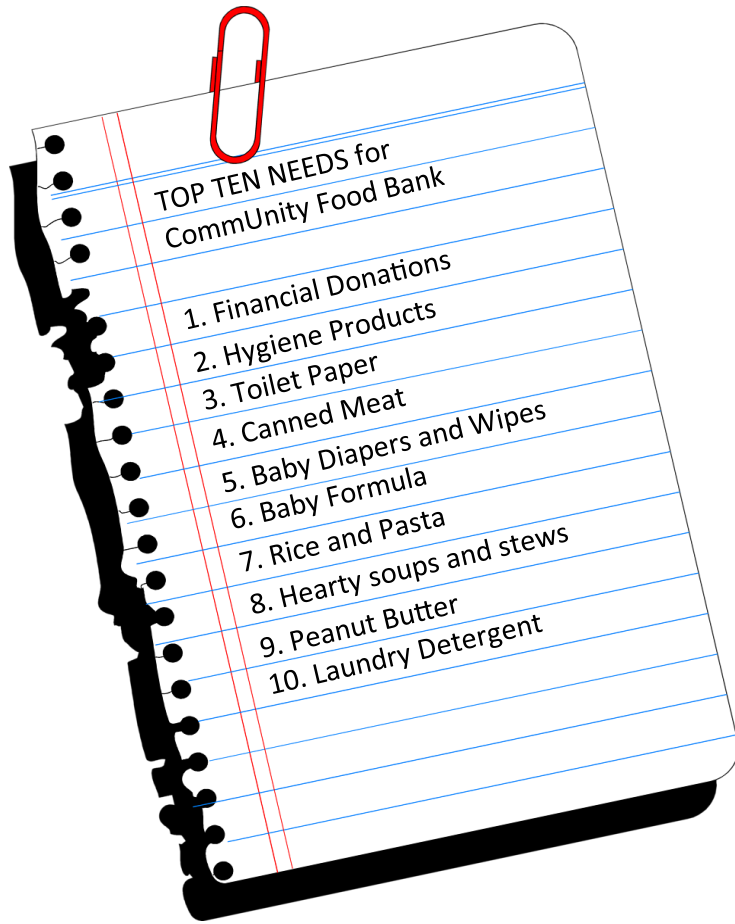
*Merry Christmas & Thank You*



THANK YOU for sharing the good news of our Savior's birth with your signed Christmas cards. 474 cards will be delivered to senior living facilities. Your participation in this outreach project is greatly appreciated.

Our Redeemer Outreach Committee





## Donation bin located in Church Office

Please consider picking up extra items as you are shopping to donate to the CommUnity Crisis Center.



**Consign through Stuff etc. This is a fundraiser for our preschool.** You can donate items by dropping them off yourselves or placing them in a box outside the preschool. Preschool will receive 50% of the profit from the donated items that are sold at Stuff. All items given to Stuff will be a donation if they cannot sell them.  
**Consigner Number : Iowa City #43522**



## POPCORN PROVIDED

Come join us December 21, at 6:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall for the continuation of the Christ in Film series. The upcoming "feature" will be "Die Hard" Rated (R)





## Tis the Season for Giving!

The children of our community need our help! Many of the local children are missing a basic comfort that we often take for granted, warmth. So many students walk to school and/or are unable to participate in daily outdoor recess at school with parents who cannot provide mittens, boots, or gear to keep them warm. Many of these children are the same families serviced by the area shelters and very much in need. The Human Care Committee is currently collecting the following items beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> until January 2<sup>nd</sup> and would really appreciate your help with a donation.

They are seeking new:

- **Snow Pants**
- **Hats**
- **Boots**
- **Mittens**
- **Scarves**

Any donations can be left at the Mitten Tree which is located near the Welcome Counter. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> the Human Care Committee will gather the items for delivery to the Iowa City School District Administration Office for distribution to children in need when classes resume.

Please feel free to direct any questions to Tracy Nelson, Human Care Committee Chair, at [tracy-nelson@uiowa.edu](mailto:tracy-nelson@uiowa.edu). Thank you in advance for your kindness!



## LWML CARD SHOP

Advent is here and Christmas is on the way. LWML has stocked the card shop with Christmas cards. Please stop by and check out the assortment of Christian focused Yuletide messages to share with others. There are some sold individually and some in boxes of 12. Prices are the same, \$.50 a card and \$5.50 a box. The shop is located in the hallway by the fellowship hall. As always, thank you for supporting this LWML mission. Merry Christmas!

## 2023 Advent/Christmas/New Year Schedule

December 16	5:30pm	Communion Service
December 17	8:00am & 10:30am 12:00pm	Communion Services Christmas & Cookies
December 20	1:00pm 5:10pm 6:00pm/6:10pm	Advent Service Advent Meal Sing-a-long/Advent Service
December 23	5:30pm	Worship Service
December 24**	9:30am & 4:30pm 6:30pm & 11:30pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship Christmas Eve Communion Worship
December 25	9:30am	Christmas Day Communion Worship
December 30	5:30pm	Worship Service
December 31**	9:30am 6:30pm	Worship Service New Year's Eve Communion Worship

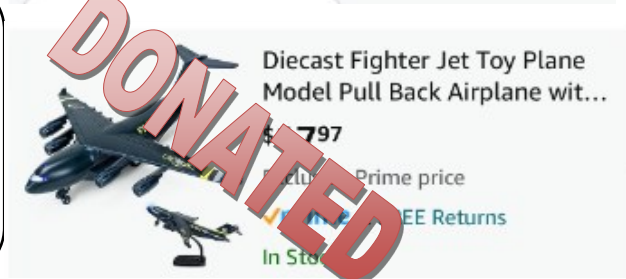
*\*No Midweek Classes December 27 or January 3*

*\*\*No Sunday School or Adult Bible Class December 24 & 31*

Advent Meal for December  
20 is being provided by the  
High School Youth

# Preschool Christmas Wish List

Can you help us with a few items for the preschool? You can purchase them or donate money towards them. All contributions will help. Thank you!



## Money towards

- ~~specific paints we are running out of~~
- ~~Princess stickers~~
- ~~Hawkeye stickers~~
- ~~Black stickers~~
- ~~Any stickers~~
- ~~Gems for crafts~~



## Design & Build Water Blocks

\$32.99

★★★★★ (143)



## Coogam Wooden Alphabet Number Stamp Flashcard, ABC Spelling Letter Stampers and...

★★★★★ 5

\$26.99 prime



Sponsored

## Jumbo 16" Beach Sand Shovels Toys For Kids Adults, Large Sand Beach Spade Rake Garden Tools for Sandbox Outdoor Digging Gardening, Wood...

★★★★★ ☆ 40

\$13<sup>98</sup>



## Inside classroom

TEMI Truck Toys for 3 4 5 6 7 Year Old Boys - 5 Pack Carrier Transport City Vehicles Toys, Kids Toys Car for Girls Toddlers Friction Power Set, Push and Go Play Vehicles Toys...

Visit the TEMI Store  
4.2 ★★★★★ | 7,949 ratings  
| 13 answered questions  
900+ bought in past month

\$29<sup>99</sup>

Get Fast, Free Shipping with Amazon Prime  
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Coupon:  Apply \$3 coupon [Shop items](#) | [Terms](#)

Get a \$60 gift card instantly: Pay \$0.00 \$29.99 upon approval for the Amazon Store Card. Find out how

Available at a lower price from other sellers that may not



## On the playground





# Preschool Newsletter

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

December 11—15, 2023

Director/Teacher: Kaja Mueller M-F

Assistants: Christie Cherian M/W/F, Sara Cross T/TH

Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949

Fax: 319-338-9171

www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org

preschool@ourredeemer.org



## This Week

### CIRCLE TIMES

Daily question

Math equation

Wisemen traveled from afar  
chant

Letter C—recognize, write, and  
make the sound

Bells are ringing chant

Color green song

Away in a Manger song

Bible: The Savior is Born

Silent Night song

Winter books

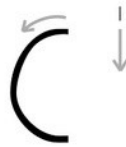
Candy cane craft

Christmas symbols free style  
painting

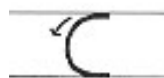
Special Story Time with Pas-  
tor Hartwig

Tornado Drill

Kids working on saying  
their whole name—first,  
middle, last



Big C curve



C c



### Zipper Club

We started the zipper club a few years ago because we wanted to celebrate with each student when they show they could zip their own coat. In our preschool we really value our students independence and successes. This is the same attitude we have when kids try new foods, and in November we celebrated being a part of the Two Bite Club. Celebrate with your kids as they learn all the cool things they can do. They are learning so much patience, self control, and emotional regulation everyday!

GREEN



green

GREEN (Tune: Row, Row, Row, Your Boat)

G-R-E-E-N, G-R-E-E-N  
I know how to spell  
green, G-R-E-E-N  
Caterpillars are green  
and grasshoppers, too  
I know how to spell  
green, G-R-E-E-N.

## Home Question

If you could eat your favorite dessert right now, what would it be? Why?

## Next Week's Snacks

You get to bring snacks and be our line leader. M/W/F = 18 students; T/TH = 12 students

Monday: Preschool

Tuesday: Vinley

Wednesday: Silas

Thursday: Emerson

Friday: Zion



On the preschool bulletin board there is a record of the snacks we have served. You only need to bring 2 healthy food groups for snack of the 5 presented in our CACFP Credible Food List packet. **Half a gallon of a drink is all we really use in class.** Thanks for the snacks.

All those **staying for lunch** remember to pack all 5 food groups. **If a preschooler would like to join us for lunch**, please let Mrs. Kaja know. All you need is \$5 and your lunch!



Happy 5th Birthday Eliana!

**Cc** (To Do Your Ears Hang Low?)

Can you bake a cake? Can you cook a T-bone steak? Can you make a chocolate malted? Can you make an ice-cream shake? Can you boil a cup of water? Clean the dishes like you ought to? Can you bake a cake?





# Children's Ministry

Birth—5<sup>th</sup> Grade



**Children's Sunday School**  
PreK3—5<sup>th</sup> grade



**9:30 am—10:15am Lesson**  
(in classrooms)

**LESSON:**  
**A Soldier Believes—A Philippian Jailer**  
Scripture: Acts 16:16-40

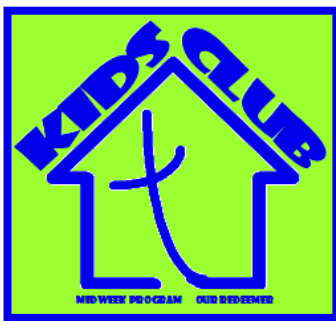
## Toddlin' to Jesus

Room 215  
(Toddlin' Room)  
Join us at **9:20 am**  
on Sunday mornings.



Parents and their children ages birth to age 2 are invited to participate. You will meet with other parents and children for a toddler-friendly Bible lesson, music and prayer.

It's a casual and relaxed environment balanced with activities and playtime.



**KIDS CLUB**  
4 year olds—5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Toddlin' Classroom



**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
5:10pm Advent Meal  
6pm Sing-Along  
6:10pm Advent Worship  
6:45pm **KIDS CLUB Lesson: Jesus' Birthday Party & Gingerbread Church Craft**

**Future Dates:**  
December 27—No Kid's Club  
January 3—No Kid's Club  
January 10—Kid's Club starts again





# Youth



6<sup>th</sup> —12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Youth Coordinator Kara Hartwig

[youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org) (319) 855-2728

## Confirmation

(6<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade—Small Group

Unit 2: God's Grace to His People Israel

**The Divided Kingdom—**

*the united kingdom of Israel divides into 2 separate kingdoms after Solomon's death.*



- North / South
- Israel 10 tribes/ Judah 2 tribes
- 19 Kings of Israel / 20 Kings of Judah
- 0 Good Kings in Israel / 8 Good Kings in Judah

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Small Group

Intro, First and Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Lecture

Unit 2: Apostle's Creed

*Article 2: God the Son. We will read the account of our Savior's birth from the Gospel of Luke.*



## High School Midweek Schedule

High School Youth meet every Wednesday night from 6:45 pm—8 pm in the Youth Room.

*Friends are always welcome!*

Here's the upcoming schedule...

### December 20<sup>th</sup>

Advent Meal @ 5:10 pm

\*\*\*High School is helping!

Sing-a-long @ 6:00 pm

Advent Worship Service

@ 6:10 pm

Midweek @ 6:45 pm

High School Christmas Party



\*Bring a \$5.00 gift for the Gift exchange. If you want, wear Christmas attire, this includes pajamas!

## WINTER Retreat

### Confirmation Winter Retreat

Friday, February 9—Saturday, February 10, 2024

Location will be a local area hotel

For all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation students

PARENTS: We need several parents to chaperone this overnight event. Parents attend free. Email Kara at [youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org) to register as a chaperone.

**Registration form & payment DUE:**  
Wednesday, January 24

## Winter Break Calendar Dates for Confirmation Classes & High School Midweek

### Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

5:10 pm Advent Meal—(High School is helping)

6:00 pm Christmas Sing-a-long in Sanctuary

6:10 pm Advent Worship Service

6:45 pm Confirmation Classes & Midweek

### Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

No Confirmation Classes

### Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

No Confirmation Classes

### Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

RESUME NORMAL SCHEDULE

6:00 pm Midweek Meal (8<sup>th</sup> Grade helps)

6:45 pm Confirmation Classes & Midweek

8:00 pm Parents Meeting Winter Retreat

## OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

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

<u>STAFF &amp; EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF &amp; EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Rev. Dr. Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor <a href="mailto:bhartwig@ourredeemer.org">bhartwig@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director <a href="mailto:preschool@ourredeemer.org">preschool@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Ethan Boester, Vicar <a href="mailto:vicar@ourredeemer.org">vicar@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator <a href="mailto:redemer@ourredeemer.org">redeemer@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)
Christie Cherian, Preschool Assistant <a href="mailto:preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org">preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool)	Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant <a href="mailto:preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org">preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool)
Sarah Gabel, Bookkeeper <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org">bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator <a href="mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org">youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)
Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator <a href="mailto:smallgroups@ourredeemer.org">smallgroups@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)	Louise Klopp, Director Choirs/ Properties <a href="mailto:choirdirector@ourredeemer.org">choirdirector@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)
Marilyn Paetz, Organist <a href="mailto:organist@ourredeemer.org">organist@ourredeemer.org</a>	351-4262 (home)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology <a href="mailto:technology@ourredeemer.org">technology@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 ext. 18 631-8924 (cell)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant <a href="mailto:consultant@ourredeemer.org">consultant@ourredeemer.org</a>	319-331-3242 (cell) 338-5626 ext. 21		

### 2023 Board of Elders

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

### 2023 Board of Directors

President	Arlan Thompson	319-338-2938
Vice President	Ben Weis	319-936-6850
Secretary	Barb Schanbacher	319-351-3998
Treasurer	Kari Kibby	319-573-4127
Board of Elders	Chad Pence	319-321-5686
Properties	Dave Yansky	319-621-7694
At Large	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
	Marilyn Albright	319-430-8129
	Steve Scott	563-889-0990

## DEADLINES

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

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

## RADIO

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

## VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

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