



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES

2025 – 2026

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www.ourredeemer.org

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ELDERS

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Rick Gienapp
Skip Kempnich
Brad Mullane
Chad Pence
Kevin Roiseland
Art Schwarting
Chad Waring



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	LCMS Youth Gathering (LCMS YG)	32
Elders	2	Children	33
2025-2026 Theme	4	Cradle Roll	33
All God's Creatures: Alleluia	4	Our Redeemer Preschool	34
Theme Verses	4	Kids Club	35
Theme Hymn	5	Sunday School	36
Stephen Ministry	6	Children's Christmas Program & Lunch	38
Events	7	Vacation Bible School	38
Christmas & Cookies	7	Service Connections:	39
MidWeek Events	7	Connections Committee	39
511 Melrose Open House	8	Health Ministries	39
Not-So-Newlywed Game	8	Human Care	40
Pancake Day	9	Mission	41
Parade Party	9	Outreach	42
Trivia Challenge	9	Properties	43
Trunk-or-Treat	10	Administrative Connections:	43
Adult	10	Beacon	43
Importance of Bible Study	10	Card Shop	44
Sunday Morning	12	Communication Cabinets	44
Wednesday Morning	12	Communication Racks	44
Wednesday Evening	12	Devotions	44
Bible Study	13	Library	44
Small Group Ministry	19	Reflections	44
Comfort-Tiers	20	"The Chosen" Season 5	45
Lunch Bunch	20	Worship Connections:	45
GriefShare	21	Wonders of His Love: Alleluia	
Men	22	(Stewardship Series)	45
Bible Study For Men	22	The Advent of a New Creation: Alleluia	
Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)	22	(Advent Sermon Series)	46
Women	23	All God's Creatures Bow Down	
Bible Study for Women	23	(Lenten Sermon Series)	47
Women's Retreat	23	Lenten Prayer Walk	48
Young Adult	24	Advent and Lenten Suppers	48
20/30 Small Group	24	Acolytes	48
Women's Mission Guild (LWML)	25	Adult Choir	48
Youth	28	Baptism	49
Parents of Youth	28	Fellowship Time	49
Confirmation Classes	28	Handbell Choir	49
Confirmation Retreats	29	Nursery	49
Confirmation Youth	29	Organ and Piano	49
High School Youth	30	Praise Team	50
Midweek	30	Prayer Chain	50
Youth Worship	30	Special Music	50
Live Nativity	31	Technology Assistants	51
Summer Servant Event – UKANDU	31	Ushers	51
Fundraising and Prize Accounts	32	Worship Services	56

2025-2026 Theme

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:31-33 ESV

ALL GOD'S CREATURES: ALLELUIA

All God's Creatures: Alleluia. The goal of this theme is to bring about a mindset of gratitude for all that God has done for us. It is a sanctification focus, premising on the idea that we are God's creatures who rely upon Him to sustain and provide for us for all our needs, both physical and spiritual. The phrase itself serves to remind people both that they are a creature of God's, but also that the word "alleluia" is a verb. Part of this theme will be to help reinforce the biblical literacy that the Hebrew word "alleluia" means "Praise the Lord".

Features of this theme will be focusing on all the ways God provides for His people. It will also be focused on encouraging people to praise God regularly for the things He has provided for them (specifically focusing on contentment and gratitude vs. the vices of greed and materialism). During the service, this theme will include many different opportunities for the congregation to declare their "Alleluias". This will serve for a great opportunity to "strip" the theme away during the season of Lent, helping to

cause the congregation to see a notable difference in our worship life over this 40 day period. There will be a "secret" alternate theme that will be introduced during the season of Lent that will be centered around our unworthiness to receive the gifts that God has prepared for us. This will serve to emphasize the love of our Creator, who did not abandon us even though we are unlovable creatures. One element of this "secret theme" will be to "box away" all of our Alleluias at the Ash Wednesday service, to be unboxed on Easter morning as we once again rejoice in the resurrection of Christ.

THEME VERSES

Psalm 103:1-5 – Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Matthew 6:31-33 – Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Philippians 4:11b-13 – ...for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and

need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Psalm 46:1-3 – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Colossians 3:17 – And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ephesians 5:18b-21 – ...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:15-22 – See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Psalm 118:24 – This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 107:1-3 – Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Lamentations 3:22-24 – The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

THEME HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Thou rushing winds that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice.
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

And all ye saints of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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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 7, 2025
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 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.

MIDWEEK MEALS

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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

511 MELROSE OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 3, 2026
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm



Hot dogs served in the parking lot and tours of the house will acquaint Our Redeemer members with the ministry LLL has supported since 1973, providing Alcoholics Anonymous groups with a meeting place.

In 1972, members of Our Redeemer voted to buy the property at 511 Melrose in Iowa City from Iowa District East. The district had originally purchased the property as a parsonage for St. Paul's, and then allowed a local AA group that moved from Our Redeemer to use the site. When the district decided to sell, Our Redeemer committed to purchase the property for \$25,000 in 1972, paying off the mortgage in 1986. Improvements are continually made such as a new roof, permanent siding, new windows, remodeling of the interior rooms to accommodate more people, and adding a handicap entrance. A fire escape and necessary emergency lighting were done in 1995. The hot water heating system was replaced in 1996 by volunteers from Our Redeemer. The house provides the site for important social ministry meetings for alcohol and drug recovery. The property is maintained through LLL's fall football parking.

NOT-SO-NEWLYWED GAME



Sunday, January 18, 2026
Following late service

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.

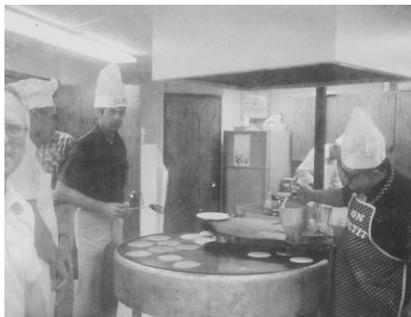


PANCAKE DAY



Saturday, March 7, 2026

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 pancakes, cook sausage, serve, and clean-up. At least come to eat. Yum!



First Pancake Day to Support 511 Melrose

PARADE PARTY

Parade Party

Come on **Wednesday, September 24th** 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

November 1, 2025

Following Saturday Worship

February 15, 2026

Following Late Worship 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 26, 2025
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!

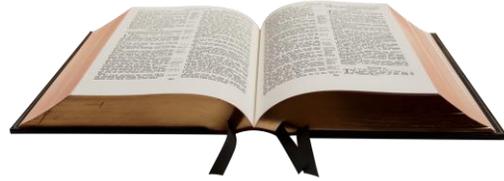


Watch **Reflections** in the Fall for more information.

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

Adult

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY



Studying the Bible is crucial for Christians because it's God's primary way of speaking to believers and provides guidance, wisdom, and strength for navigating life. It fosters spiritual growth, deepens understanding of God's character and plan, and helps believers discern truth from error. Additionally, it offers practical advice for daily living, helps believers understand their identity in Christ, and facilitates fellowship with other believers.

Here's a more detailed look at the importance of Bible study:

1. Spiritual Growth and Understanding:

- **Spiritual Nourishment:**

The Bible is likened to spiritual food, essential for healthy spiritual growth. Regular study provides the nourishment needed to mature in faith.

- **Wisdom and Discernment:**

The Bible offers wisdom for navigating life's challenges, making wise decisions, and distinguishing between right and wrong.

- **Deeper Relationship with God:**

Studying God's Word helps believers understand His character, His plan for humanity,

and His love for them, fostering a closer relationship with Him.

2. Practical Application:

- **Guidance for Life:**
The Bible provides principles and guidance for various aspects of life, including relationships, work, finances, and decision-making.
- **Overcoming Temptation:**
Scripture equips believers to resist temptation, overcome sin, and live according to God's will.
- **Understanding Identity in Christ:**
The Bible reveals believers' identity as children of God, loved and accepted by Him, offering a source of strength and purpose.

3. Fellowship and Community:

- **Shared Learning:**
Studying the Bible with others provides opportunities for discussion, shared insights, and mutual encouragement.
- **Strengthened Relationships:**
Group Bible study fosters deeper connections among believers, creating a sense of community and belonging.
- **Accountability:**
Studying together can create an environment of mutual accountability, encouraging believers to live out their faith.

4. Protection Against Error:

- **Discerning Truth:**
By studying Scripture, believers can learn to discern truth from error, protecting themselves from false teachings and harmful ideologies.
- **Defending the Faith:**
A solid understanding of the Bible enables believers to defend their faith and share it with others.

5. Cultural Literacy:

- **Understanding Western Civilization:**
The Bible has profoundly influenced Western culture, and understanding its stories and themes enhances cultural literacy.
- **Recognizing Biblical Allusions:**
Biblical references are common in literature, art, and everyday language, and Bible study helps in understanding these references.

In conclusion, Bible study is a vital practice for Christians, offering numerous benefits for spiritual growth, practical living, and community building.



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:

August 31, 2025 (Labor Day)
November 30, 2025 (Thanksgiving Weekend)
December 21 & 28, 2025 (Christmas)
April 5, 2026 (Easter Sunday)
May 10, 2026 (The Bible is Right Celebration)
May 17, 2026 (Graduation Breakfast)
May 24, 2026 (Memorial Day Weekend)

September 21 – November 23

Read through the Bible

November 30

Thanksgiving – No Class

December 7 – December 14

Read through the Bible

December 21 - 28

Christmas/New Year's – No Class

January 4

Recap

January 11 – February 15

Dare to be Different

February 22 – March 29

Bow Down

April 5

Easter Sunday – No Class

April 12 – May 3

Blessings in Disguise

May 10

The Bible is Right Celebration

May 17

High School Graduation Breakfast

May 24

Memorial Day - No Class

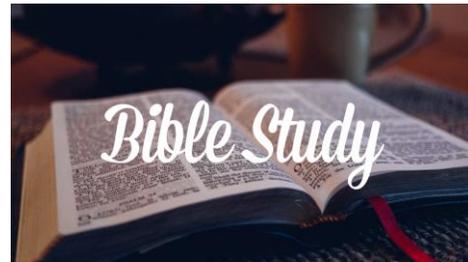
WEDNESDAY MORNING

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

Acts



WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

September 17; October 1 – November 19

Creation, New Creation

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

December 3, 10

Myth or Faith

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

December 17

Christmas Account

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

January 7 – February 11

Myth or Faith

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

February 25, March 4, 11, 25; April 8, 15

Winning Friends for Christ

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

September 19 & 20, 2025

Weekend Immersion

Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Saturday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Spring

March 27 & 28, 2026

Weekend Immersion

Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Saturday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

ALL GOD'S CREATURES BOW DOWN



Sunday Morning

9:20 am – 10:05 am

February 22 – March 29, 2026

When a character bows down, it is often to show respect, humility, or worship. During these six weeks, let us explore biblical characters who bowed down.

1. Abraham bows before the Hittites

After his wife Sarah dies, Abraham approaches the Hittites to purchase a burial site for her. In this negotiation, Abraham bows before the people of the land, demonstrating respect and humility despite being a man of great wealth and God's promise. He secures the Cave of Machpelah, a significant burial place for his family.

2. Jacob bows before Esau

Returning home after 20 years of estrangement, Jacob prepares to meet his brother Esau, whom he had previously deceived. Fearing his brother's wrath, Jacob approaches him with great humility, bowing to the ground seven times as he comes near. This gesture of complete subservience is a plea for reconciliation, which Esau receives with compassion.

3. *Joseph's brothers bow down to him*

As the governor of Egypt, Joseph oversees the distribution of grain during a famine. His estranged brothers come to Egypt to buy food, unaware of his identity. The brothers bow down to him with their faces to the ground, fulfilling the prophetic dreams Joseph had as a young boy. This moment marks a powerful reversal of their fortunes and highlights God's sovereign plan.

4. *Ruth bows before Boaz*

In the fields of Bethlehem, Ruth, a foreigner, encounters Boaz, a relative of her late husband. After Boaz shows her remarkable kindness and provision, Ruth falls to the ground and bows. She does this to thank him and to express her humility, and wonders whether he would show such favor to a stranger.

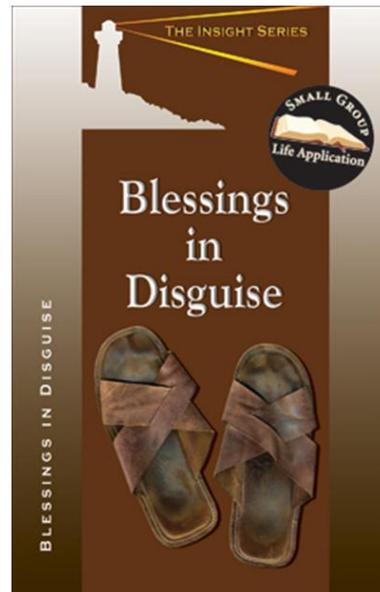
5. *Solomon bows before the Lord*

At the dedication of the Temple, King Solomon leads the assembly in worship. He kneels before all the people, spreading his hands toward heaven and bowing in prayer. This public display of humility from a king of such power and prestige acknowledges that God is greater than he.

6. *Mordecai refuses to bow to Haman*

When the king promotes Haman, he commands all officials to bow down to him. The king's officials obey, but Mordecai, a Jew, refuses to bow or pay homage. This act of defiance, based on his Jewish identity and faith in God, enrages Haman, who then plots to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom.

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE



Sunday Morning
9:20 am – 10:05 am
April 12 - May 3, 2026

Although Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is well-known, His Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6) packs a powerful message too. Not as well-known, this sermon of Jesus is just as challenging to Jesus' followers and every bit as comforting. Unique to our Lord's sermon in Luke, His four beatitudes ("blessings") are paired with four jolting condemnations ("woes"). The four sessions of this Insight course follow this built-in outline. Used as a tool to dig into Scripture itself, Blessings in Disguise can help today's Christian find Christ's power and encouragement.

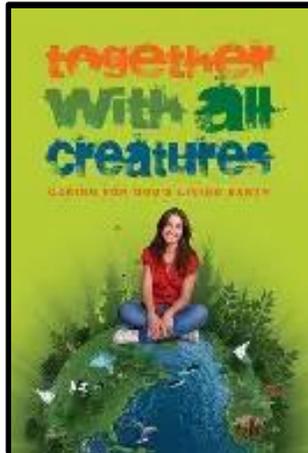
Session 1: Blessed the Poor/Woe to the Rich

Session 2: Blessed the Hungry/Woe to the Well-Fed

Session 3: Blessed the Weeping/Woe to the Laughing

Session 4: Blessed the Despised/Woe to the Popular

BOOK CLUB:
TOGETHER WITH ALL CREATURES



Thursday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

October 16, 2025

Session 1: Where Do We Fit Within
Creation?

November 20, 2025

Session 2: How Do We Live Within
Creation?

As Christians, we know who we are in relation to the wider creation: God created us to care for the earth as creatures among fellow creatures. As Christians we now carry out that task in anticipation of the new creation ushered in by the resurrection of Christ. This conviction and hope enable us to be proactive instead of reactive in our care of creation, regardless of the ecological crisis that might be on the horizon.

CHRISTMAS ACCOUNT



Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
December 17, 2025

During this one evening session, we will explore what the Bible has to say about Christmas. The story of Christmas in the Bible recounts the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, detailing the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the divine announcement of the birth to shepherds, their subsequent visit to the stable, and the arrival of the Wise Men.

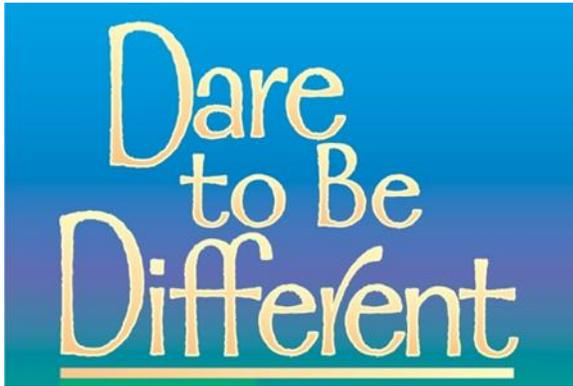
Matthew 1:18-2:23:

This passage describes the miraculous conception, Joseph's initial confusion, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit of the Wise Men.

Luke 2:1-20:

This chapter details the census, Mary's journey to Bethlehem, Jesus' birth in the manger, the announcement to the shepherds, and their visit to the baby.

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT



**Sunday Morning
9:20 am – 10:05 am
January 11 - February 15, 2026**

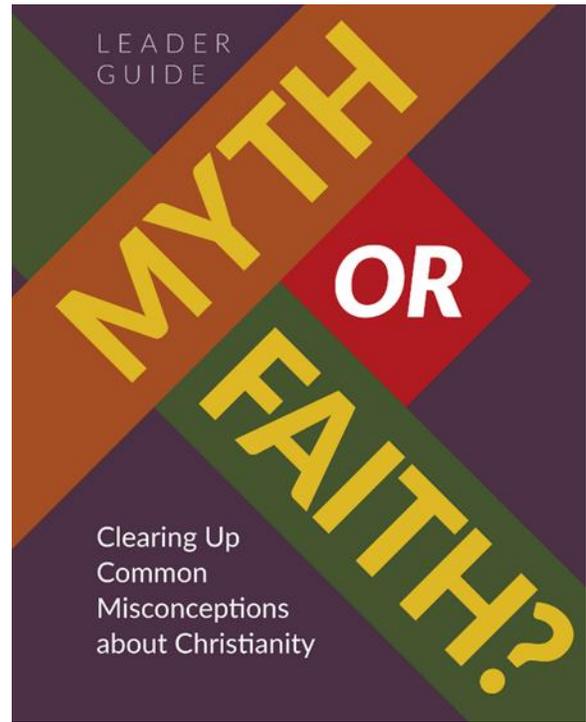
This study offers encouragement and practical suggestions for those who desire to be more faithful in their life of confessing Christ.

This six-session study includes:

1. No-Threat Christians
2. Only a Christian
3. No Contest-Wielding the Sword
4. Know Your Enemy
5. An Attitude of Gratitude
6. The World Has Changed
7. Mission, Values, and Vision



MYTH OR FAITH



**Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
December 3, 10, 2025
January 7 – February 11, 2026**

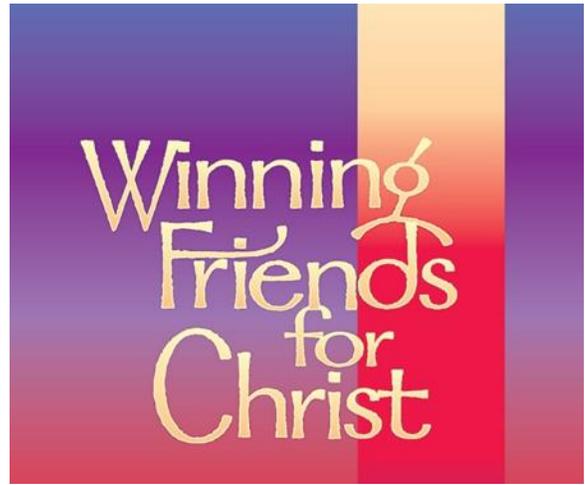
Myth or Faith? There is a limit to God's forgiveness.

Myth or Faith? If we take Communion too often, it will become less meaningful for us.

There are plenty of misconceptions about Christianity in today's society. From false rumors to biblical teachings that are heavily distorted from their subject matter, there's no lack of myths to find. Do you know how to respond to them? More importantly, do you know the truth backed up by God's Word and teachings?

“Myth or Faith? Clearing Up Common Misconceptions about Christianity” guides you through eight sessions, each covering three different misconceptions you may or may not know about Christianity. Follow along with your individual book to help guide your way through discussions and reflections about each misconception you find. Take your time reading outlined Scripture verses and seeing what God's True Word says concerning the statements. Each session will be opened with prayer to let God guide you as you come to a full and accurate understanding of the faith.

WINNING FRIENDS FOR CHRIST



Wednesday Nights

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

February 25 – March 11, 2026

March 25, 2026; April 8, 15, 2026



This series shows how you can bring to your friends the Good News that they have been won by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross so that they, along with you, may become a part of God's family by grace through faith.

This six-session study includes:

1. Plan Ahead
2. Prayer Power
3. Person to Person
4. Tell Me
5. Gathering Two or Three
6. Welcome to the Family

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS:

ONE BOOK, ONE CONGREGATION, ONE BODY

Building
up the
Body
through
GOD'S  WORD

TWO YEAR
READ

September 21 – November 23
December 7 – December 14
January 6 – Recap

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.



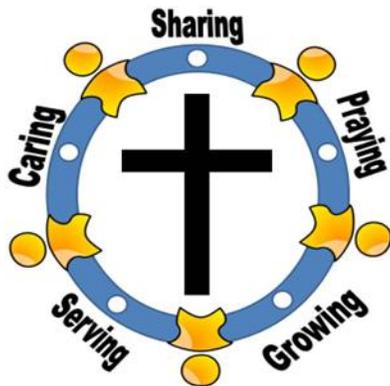
GOALS for BUILDING THE BODY

- ✘ 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.

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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 of 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 Holidia 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 until noon. Anyone is welcome to come and help tie for an hour or two. The tables are elevated to prevent stress to the back. Coffee/goodies are shared, along with a devotion. We sometimes go out to eat together.

If you wish to donate toward the making of these comforters, we accept any type of fabrics that are washable and clean:

- Good used sheets, light blankets, draperies, curtains, tablecloths, pillowcases, linens; even any of these torn, mended, or stained can be used as 'middles'--a third layer helps sift out sand during sandstorms in desert areas.
- 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 and 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.
- 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 are 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 319-354-5644 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.

GRIEFSHARE



**Tuesday nights as listed
7:00 pm – 8:15 pm**

GriefShare

St. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 encourages Christians to “build each other up” during times of grieving. Our Redeemer is excited to deepen our congregation’s fulfillment of that command by beginning a 13-week GriefShare program on September 16, 2025.

The GriefShare program has helped thousands of people keep their eyes fixed on Christ as they navigate life after losing loved ones. It focuses on providing tools and insights to find relief and manage emotions, connect with people who understand, encourage those grieving with personal stories, and utilize biblical wisdom to deepen the healing journey.

If you are interested in attending these classes, or joining the ministry as a volunteer, please contact the church office to sign up!

Dates

Week 1: September 16, 2025
“Is This Normal?”

Week 2: September 23, 2025
“Your Grief Journey”

Week 3: September 30, 2025
“Loneliness & Sadness”

Week 4: October 7, 2025
“Self-Care”

Week 5: October 14, 2025
“Fearful & Overwhelmed”

Week 6: October 21, 2025
“Anger”

Week 7: October 28, 2025
“Regrets”

Week 8: November 4, 2025
“Grief & Your Household”

Week 9: November 11, 2025
“Grief & Your Friendships”

Week 10: November 18, 2025
“Questions for God”

Week 11: November 25, 2025
“Stuck in Grief”

Week 12: December 2, 2025
“Hope & Resilience”

Week 13: December 9, 2025
“What Do I Live For Now?”

BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

PSALMS



**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]

Most people who know anything about the Bible know a few “literary gems” from the Psalms. But if you are not satisfied with a few oft-quoted verses, then come to a full banquet. In this hymn book of the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit speaks through real people who are walking through a wide range of life experiences: from great pain, doubt, and sorrow, to firm faith, joy, and gladness. As you read these cherished, Spirit-breathed words, you will hear God speaking to the joys and challenges of your life.

**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.

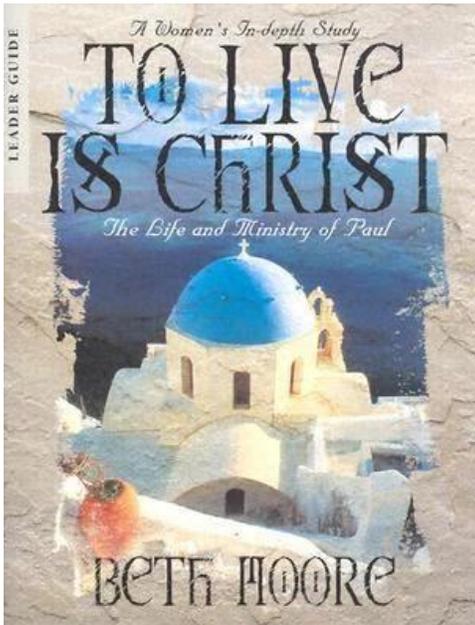
Our Redeemer LLL members meet during the months of January, March, May, and October on the fourth Tuesday at 6:30 pm for business, special programs, and fellowship. The LLL Steak Cookout happens yearly on the fourth Tuesday of August at 6:00 pm. This cookout is at Our Redeemer. Men bring their own meat 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. Purchased from the Synod August 29, 1973, by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, payments were made for 13 years through contributions by church members and the annual “Pancake Day” benefit. The mortgage was paid off in June 1986. The property is maintained through LLL’s fall football parking.

All men over age 18 are encouraged to join. Contact Jerry Sexton at 319-629-5422 for more information.



MEN AT THE CROSS



To Live is Christ:
The Life and Ministry of Paul
 By Beth Moore

Tuesday Mornings
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
September 23, October 7, 21,
November 4, 18, December 2, 16

To Live is Christ: The Life and Ministry of Paul - Bible Study Book provides a personal study experience five days a week plus viewer guides for the group video sessions of this in-depth women's Bible study on the life and ministry of Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul served faithfully, loved heartily, and demonstrated what it means to die daily, crucified with Jesus Christ. Join Beth Moore in a journey to discover a greater appreciation for his unflagging faith and undying devotion to servanthood.



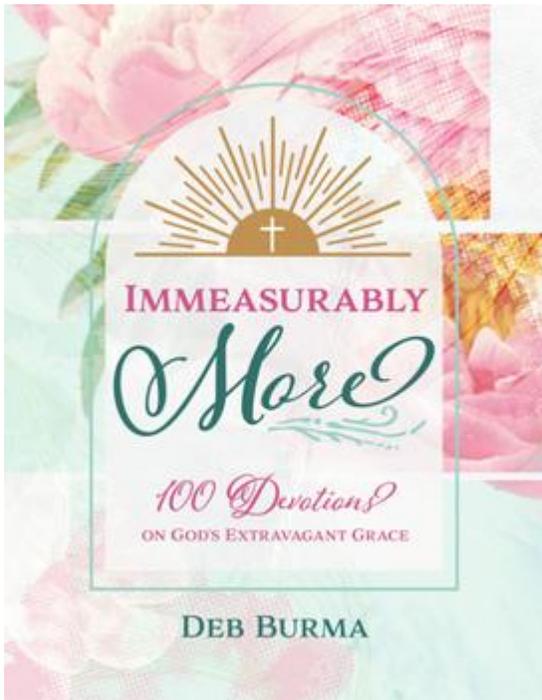
Immeasurably More
 Deb Burma

Saturday, January 10, 2026
TBD

We are excited to welcome Deb Burma as our guest speaker for our women's retreat on January 10, 2026. Deb Burma is a forgiven child of God who loves her Savior, Jesus. She has a passion for sharing His **Extravagant Grace** in an engaging way, touching the hearts of women, meeting them in the moments of their everyday lives, and leading them in the study of God's Word. She is a sought-after author and speaker, traveling extensively for women's retreats, conferences, and other ministry events.

Schedule highlights include three teaching sessions with biblical encouragement and personal reflection, opening worship service with live music by Wendysue Fluegge, lunch, and more.

This is a special opportunity to step away from the business of life, grow in God's Word and build relationships with other women in our church and community. Registration forms coming this fall with more details.



Young Adult

20/30 SMALL GROUP

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

20/30 SMALL GROUP

Join our group of 20-30-year-olds for a potluck meal, fellowship, and Bible study led by our Vicar.
Childcare available

2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS 5PM-7PM
BEN & KRISTIN WEIS'S HOME

For questions or more information contact
Kristin at (319) 325-7844

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 Linda Diggelmann at 319-594-6908 for more information.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK December 6, 2025

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 Laura Stresow, LWML president, at 218-310-9307.

2025-2026 LWML SCHEDULE

2025

July 18-19 **Fall Retreat**
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

August 16 Road Trip – Barn Lot Putt
Putt and Picnic

September 15 **Salad Potluck** 6:00 pm
Vicar Vought

October 5 **LWML Sunday**
“GO” (Luke 24:44-53)

October 11 **Fall Zone Event** 9:00 am
Zion, Hiawatha

October 18 **World Relief**
Pickup 8:00 am

October 20 **Crowded Closet** 7:00 pm
Bill and Beth Benson

November 17 **Right to Life**
Kristi 7:00 pm

December 6 **Christmas Cookie Walk**
9:00 am – 11:00 am

December 8 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm

December 15 **LWML Christmas Party**
6:00 pm

December 17 **Advent Supper** 5:10 pm
LWML serves Advent meal

2026

January 22 **Kitchen Cleaning** 1-4 pm

February 16 **Bunco Night** 7:00 pm
Nominating Committee
(President, Secretary)

March 16 **Healing Prairie**
Heather 7:00 pm

March 18 **Lenten Meal** 5:10 pm
LWML serves Lenten meal

April TBA **Spring Zone Event**
Our Redeemer, Iowa City

April TBA **Spring World Relief Pickup**

April 20 **Linda Diggelmann** 7:00 pm
Church Sensory Garden
Election of Officers

April 25 **Tasting Bee** 11:00 am

May 11 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
2026-2027 Calendar Planning

May 18 **Guild Night Out** 6:00 pm

June 12-13 **District Convention**
Graduate by Hilton
Iowa City, IA

July No meeting

August 15 **Road Trip**
Matchstick Marvels
Museum - Gladbrook

September 15 **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.”

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.

- 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 and 8th grade fall retreat. These retreats are held at church. A highlight for the 6th graders is making creation pizza with Pastor. The 7th and 8th graders enjoy the evening worship service, getting to sleep overnight at church and playing games.

WINTER

This retreat is for all Confirmation students (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) and their parents. This overnight retreat is held at a local hotel on a Friday night and ends on Saturday morning. Since we usually cover two lessons during this retreat, it's important for everyone to attend. Plus, this is a fun event for parents to chaperone. The students' favorite fellowship activity is going swimming in the wintertime.

SPRING

This special retreat is for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and their parents. It is a weekend retreat. We usually leave church early on a Saturday morning and return late Monday 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 students move into high school, we invite them to stay connected and continue growing in their faith at **Our Redeemer**. We are committed to walking alongside youth as they grow as disciples of Jesus. Each week, high school students are encouraged to take part in **Sunday School** and **Midweek**, where they can learn about God’s Word, build meaningful friendships, and be strengthened in their walk with Christ.

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 meet in the Youth Room on Wednesday nights during the school year. Students like the relaxed atmosphere, topical Bible studies, and fellowship time together.

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.

At Our Redeemer, Midweek is about more than just another activity—it’s about helping high school students grow in faith while being surrounded by a supportive community of fellow Christians.

What to expect at Midweek?

- A safe place where youth can share their faith and ask questions about God
- The encouragement of peers who are growing in faith together
- A casual, welcoming atmosphere
- Fun games and activities that help students feel at home in our church family
- Christ-centered devotions and Bible studies to strengthen their walk with Jesus

Typical activities include playing kickball, helping with a service project, 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!

YOUTH WORSHIP

Once a year, the **Confirmation** and **High School Youth** get to help with all three services as part of **Youth Worship Weekend** at Our Redeemer. The High School youth sing in a youth-only praise team and get to be in a skit during the services. The Confirmation youth serve as greeters, ushers, and acolytes.

Youth Worship Weekend 2025 is **Saturday, November 15th** at the 5:30 pm service and **Sunday, November 16th** at the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services.

LIVE NATIVITY



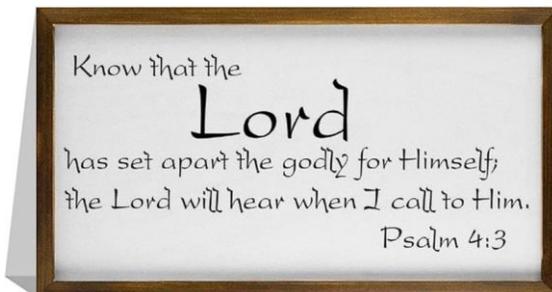
Our Redeemer is sometimes known as “the church with the real animals at Christmas,” because each December the High School youth host the Live Nativity.

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 14th from 4:00 pm - 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 150 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 2026 are **June 20 – 27, 2026.**

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING (LCMS YG)



The LCMS Youth Gathering (LCMS YG) is for high school students. Held every three 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 20,000+ other Lutherans from across the world.

The next **LCMS Youth Gathering** will be held in San Antonio, Texas from July 3—7, 2028. Exact dates of the trip will be announced when registration begins in September 2027.



FUNDRAISING and PRIZE ACCOUNTS

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 UKANDU.

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 held 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, Intellectually, 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 the 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
\$244/Month

Tuesday/Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$179/Month

5 Days
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
\$403/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 ages 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 redemer@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.

CALENDAR

Kids Club begins on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. We meet every Wednesday night from 6:45 pm until 8:00 pm. The last night of Kids Club will be Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

CANCELLATION

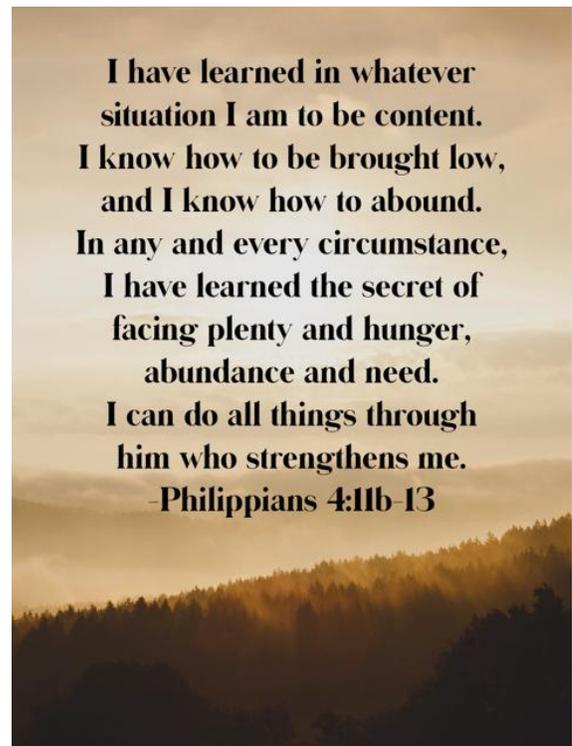
If the Iowa City schools are cancelled on a Wednesday, our Kids Club program will also be cancelled on that day. Stay tuned to Channel 9 KCRG or the ourredeemer.org website for last-minute weather-related cancellations.

SNACKS

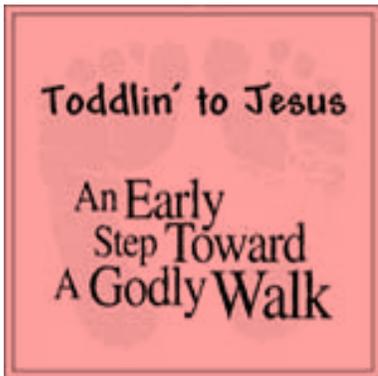
A light snack will be provided. Please note any food allergies when registering your child.

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

See church map on page 52 of this booklet.



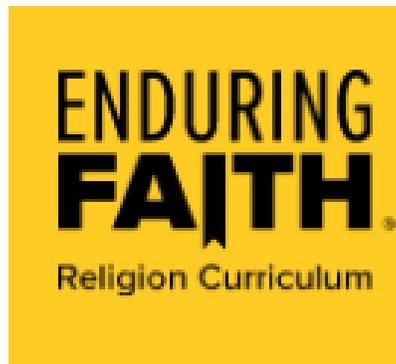
SUNDAY SCHOOL



(Parent and children birth – before entering preschool)

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 9:30 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.



(Children in grades PreK 3 – 12th grade)

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 the church map on page 52 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 to utilize and apply information.



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

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

What is Our Redeemer's goal? Memory selections:

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

The Bible Is Right is on May 10, 2026. 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 14, 2025, 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 and 4 year-old classes 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 6 and 13, 2025, 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 2-6, 2026

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:

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE



The Connections Committee (formerly Assimilation) 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 19, 2025, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

CONNECTIONS 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 Ministry 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 they coordinate are rewarding and fun.

Our present activities include:

PRIME TIME DINNER

Sunday, November 2, 2025

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. The congregation is asked 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 Human Care 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 are 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 Human Care if they need some short-time help, such small household chores. A volunteer list of people who are willing to help is maintained to assist 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. Human Care is 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 in Chicago, 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.

Upcoming dates to remember:

October 5, 2025	Panama Lunch and Presentation
November 14-23, 2025	Panama Eyeglass Clinic
February 21 -March 2, 2026	Panama VBS Mission Trip
April 12, 2026	Eswatini Lunch and Presentation
June 3-16, 2026	Eswatini Mission Trip

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 Lynn Smith at lynnsmith1420@yahoo.com or 319-471-8112.

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? Here is a list of 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.

- 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.
- Christmas Cards: 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.
- Visitor Letters: send letters or emails to visitors who worship with us.
- Angel Tree Project: provides opportunities for Our Redeemer members to purchase, wrap, and deliver Christmas gifts from incarcerated parents to their children.

We will have a new project where members of Our Redeemer can reach out to people within our community who are in need.

Our committee also encourages Our Redeemer members to use these opportunities, as well as Trivia Challenge, 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 Properties Coordinator, 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 Properties Coordinator 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 provide 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.

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

Lynne Westphal 319-310-6997
Luella Feldman 515-480-8219

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 on 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.



“THE CHOSEN” SEASON 5 VIEWING AND DISCUSSION

**Sunday Evenings From 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
February 8 – March 29, 2026**

All are invited to watch the Bible come to life through a viewing of episodes from the series “The Chosen”. This well-made series focuses on the life of Christ and His ministry on earth while helping us put ourselves in the shoes of the disciples and Christ’s followers.

Each session will involve a viewing of an episode of “The Chosen”, as well as a discussion of the biblical and extra-biblical themes throughout the episodes. Attendees are invited to think critically about the issues portrayed in the episodes and discuss whether or not they are appropriate depictions of the truths we have in the Scriptures.

If you are interested in seeing “The Chosen” but have hesitations, or have not found the opportunity, this is a great chance to watch it among friends and grow in the fellowship of other Christians.

Worship Connections:



Wonders of His Love Alleluia

STEWARDSHIP SERMON SERIES

Wonders of His Love: Alleluia (Stewardship Series)

God’s love is the source and shape of all our giving. In this series, we reflect on how His wonders transform the way we use our time, talents, and treasure. “In Time: From Here to Eternity”, we see each moment as a gift entrusted to us for God’s glory. In “Talents: What God Really Wants”, we discover that our lives are not our own but are to be lived for Christ who died and rose for us. And in “Money: The Only Free Lunch in Town”, we rejoice that Christ, who became poor for our sake, makes us rich in grace so we can give freely and joyfully. Through His wondrous love, we learn that stewardship is not about what we lose, but about what we gain in Christ.

September 21, 2025

**Money: The Only Free Lunch in Town
(2 Corinthians 8:9, 12)**

October 19, 2025
Talents: What God Really Wants
(2 Corinthians 5:15)

November 23, 2025
Time: From Here to Eternity
(Various Texts)



**THE ADVENT OF
A NEW CREATION,
Alleluia!**

**The Advent of a New
Creation: Alleluia
(Advent Sermon Series)**



This Advent season, we journey through Isaiah's vision of God's coming new creation. In Mount Eden (Isaiah 2:1–5), we glimpse a restored mountain of peace where nations stream to the Lord's presence. In The Paradise of the Church (Isaiah 11:1–10), we rejoice in the Branch from Jesse who brings harmony to all creation and gathers His people into one body. Finally, in Adams and Eves Welcomed Back Home (Isaiah 35:1–10), we celebrate the return to God's garden where the redeemed walk the holy way, sorrow and sighing flee, and everlasting joy crowns His people. Together, these messages proclaim the good news that in Christ's coming, God is restoring Eden and welcoming us into His new creation.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Mount Eden (Isaiah 2:1–5)

Wednesday, December 10, 2025
The Paradise of the Church
(Isaiah 11:1–10)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025
Adams and Eves Welcomed Back Home
(Isaiah 35:1–10)



**All God's Creatures
Bow Down
(Lenten Sermon Series)**

This Lenten journey draws us to the cross through the eyes of those who encountered Jesus in His passion. Each week, we hear the voices of God's creatures—fragile, flawed, questioning, and yet drawn to bow before the crucified Christ. Nicodemus struggles with doubt but finds faith. Judas Iscariot betrays, then despairs. Pilate declares Jesus innocent, yet condemns Him. Simon of Cyrene bears the cross he did not choose. The thief mocks, then pleads for mercy and receives Paradise. Finally, the Roman centurion beholds the Savior's death and confesses, "Truly, this was the Son of God." In their stories, we see our own, and we are called to bow down in awe before God's Son who suffers and dies for the life of the world.

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday: Nicodemus: Doubted,
Then Believed, John 3:1–21; 19:39

February 25, 2026

Lent 2: Judas Iscariot: "Not the Messiah,
but God's Son?"
Matthew 26:6–16; 27:3–10

March 4, 2026

Lent 3: Pilate: "God's Son, Found
Innocent," Matthew 27:11–14, 24–26

March 11, 2026

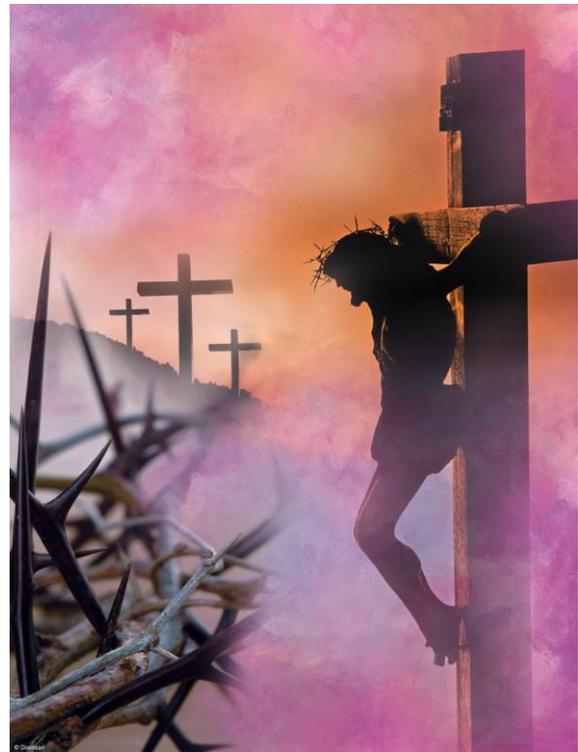
Lent 4: Simon of Cyrene: The Cross, Now
Carried, Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21

March 18, 2026

Lent 5: The Thief: Rejected, Then Believed,
Matthew 27:38–44; Luke 23:32–43

March 25, 2026

Lent 6: The Centurion: "Truly, the Son of
God," Matthew 27:51–54



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 Holy Week.

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 3, 2025
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Lenten Dinners

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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 Wednesday, April 1, 2026, of Passion Week.

ACOLYTES

It is expected that all Confirmation students (grades 6-8) will 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 27, 2025, 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 when we need a substitute. We could also 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 kempnichs@msn.com 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. 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 worship services.

Ushers volunteer to serve regularly at one service per month. Contact Dave Fruendt (319-338-5546) about early service and Dave Hintze (319-330-0496) about late service.



An up-to-date 2025-2026 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



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

Sunday Morning Classrooms:

Age/Grade	Room Number
Toddlin' to Jesus (0-2 Year Olds)	215-Classroom (Toddlin')
Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4	217-Classroom
Kindergarten & 1 st Grade	219-Classroom
2 nd & 3 rd Grades	119-Classroom
4 th & 5 th Grades	112-Classroom
6 th /7 th /8 th Grades	208-Classroom (Adult Ed)
High School	110-Youth Room
Adult	101-Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Classrooms:

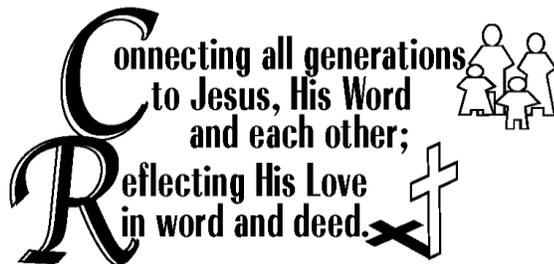
Age/Grade	Room Number
4 years – 5 th Grade – Kids Club	Fellowship Hall
6 th Grade Small Group, Girls 8 th Grade Small Group, Girls	117-Classroom
6 th Grade Small Group, Boys 8 th Grade Small Group, Boys	123-Classroom
7 th Grade Small Group, Girls	121-Classroom
7 th Grade Lecture 7 th Grade Small Group, Boys	119-Classroom
6 th Grade Lecture 8 th Grade Lecture	112-Classroom
High School	110-Youth Room
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

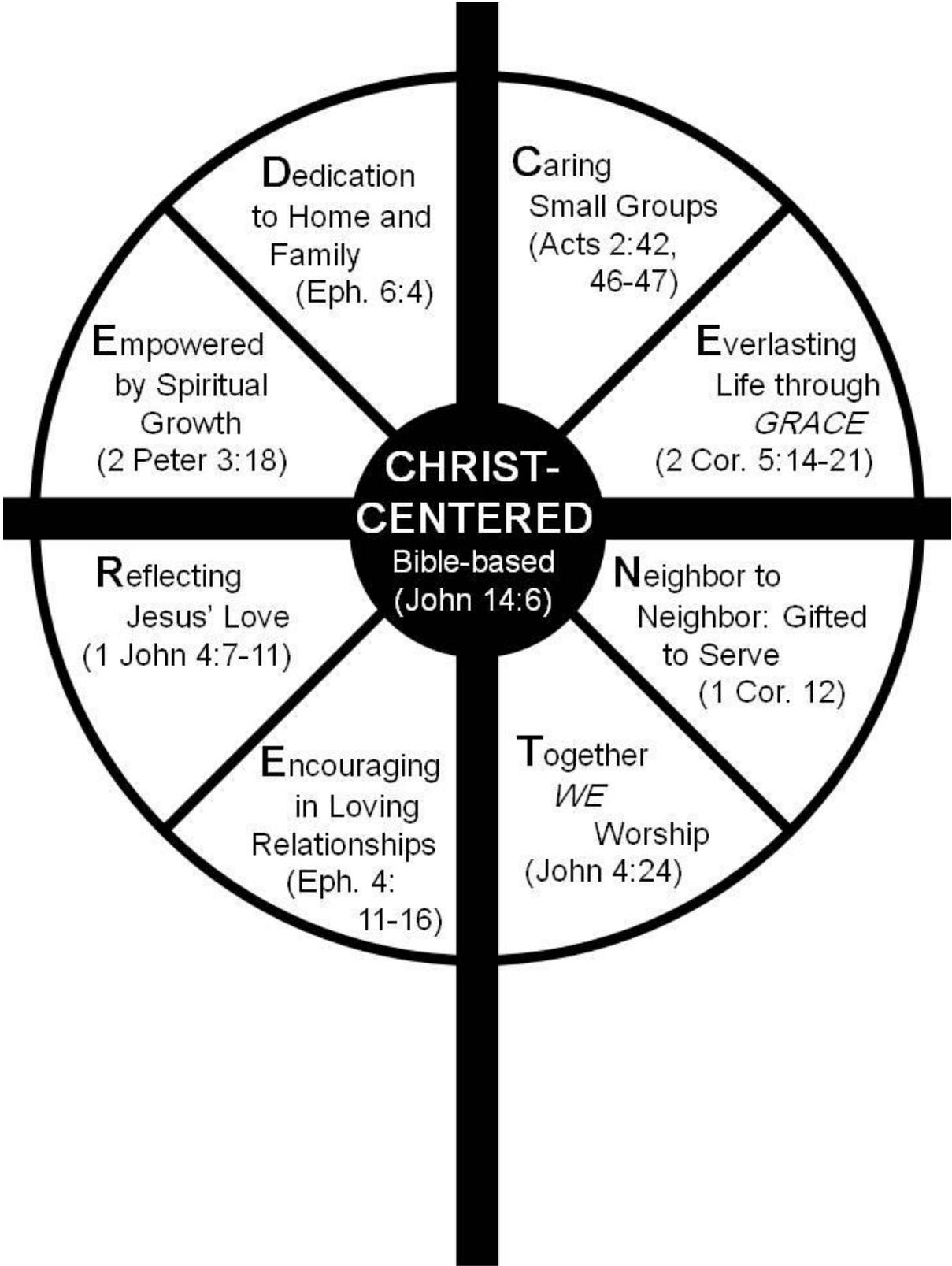
We believe that all of us—individually and corporately—are to reflect Jesus' unconditional love in word and deed, living the Christian life as followers (disciples) of Christ. (1 John 4:7-11)

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.