



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES

2026 – 2027

2301 East Court Street, Iowa City, IA 52245

319-338-5626

redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

Our Redeemer Staff

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ELDERS

Tim Eick
Rick Gienapp
Skip Kempnich
Cameron Koch
Jordan Lyon
Brad Mullane
TJ Ramsey
Kevin Roiseland
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:

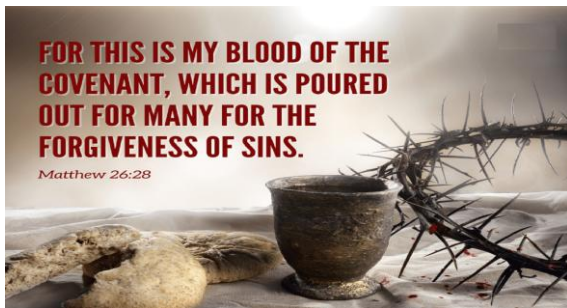
Monday through Friday
8:30 am to 5:00 pm

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2026-2027 Theme



BODY OF CHRIST

This theme serves two purposes for the people of Our Redeemer. This theme will focus on a threefold definition of the Body of Christ – **Christ**, **Communion**, **Church**. Through worship and teaching, the congregation will receive instruction on the Body of Christ being Jesus himself, the Lord's Supper, and the whole church of God. The congregation will be able to explain the differences among these three definitions. Consequently, through an increased focus on communion, in teaching and experience, the congregation will grow in deeper appreciation for the Lord's Supper. This will take place through teaching about the sacrament and what it does for us. Communion will be offered more frequently. Communion will be served at Wednesday services in Advent and in Lent. Communion will also be served every Sunday in Lent. Common cup will be offered at Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services to bookend the season of Lent.

Threefold definition of the Body of Christ:
Christ, **Communion**, **Church**

The Body of Christ is truly His **body**, meaning it is Jesus himself. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came down from heaven to dwell among His people--to heal and cast out demons; to preach the Gospel, the coming of the kingdom of God; to take our sins to the cross and die for the sin of the world, descending into hell and rising on the third day to defeat sin, death, and the devil. Jesus continues to speak today, through Scripture, the Sacraments, and the preaching of His Word.

The Body of Christ is given to us in the **Lord's Supper**. He gives Himself to us as a living sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The eating of Christ's body does these things to us by the power of the Word. In faith, we understand this bread is also truly His body because Jesus has told us it is.

The Body of Christ is the **whole church of Christ** on earth, visible and invisible. The gathering of the people of God in worship and fellowship, the church buildings, and the institutions of the church (colleges, seminaries, Lutheran Family Service, LCEF, etc.) make up the visible church here on earth. Through the visible church God distributes His gifts and promises through His Word and Sacraments. God works through His people as individual parts of His body. Each member makes the whole body of Christ. The invisible church is all believers in Christ. We cannot know the hearts of the people around us. We cannot measure faith. The invisible church is known only to God.

THEME VERSES

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Matthew 26:26-30 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14:22-26 And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 22:17-23 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit

of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 12: 26-31 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (Full passage verses 12-31)

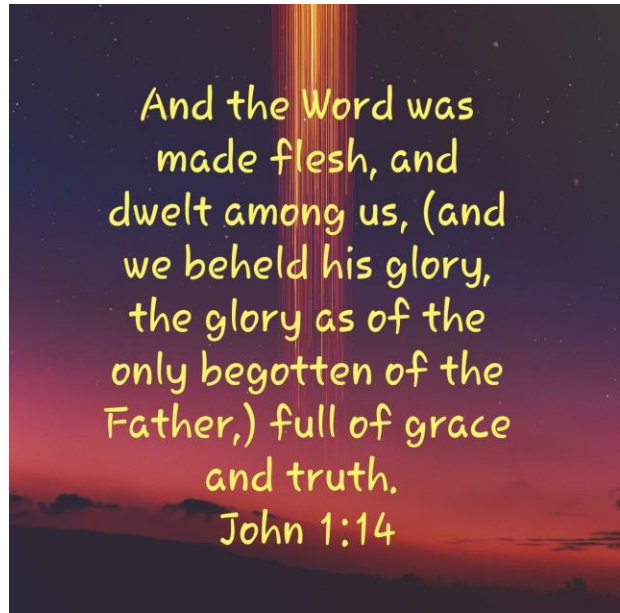
THEME HYMN

We will sing this hymn at the start of every service. Since it is a hymn with many verses, we will change out the verses week to week.

HYMN LSB 633

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side.
Alleluia!
2. Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!
3. Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Alleluia!
4. Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!
5. Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!
6. Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!
7. Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!
8. Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!





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	319-541-4026
Kevin Sellers	319-631-8924

Events



CHRISTMAS & COOKIES

Sunday, December 6, 2026
11:45 am

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 program for weather-related issues 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 16, 2026
Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Wednesday, January 6, 2027
Wednesday, February 3, 2027
Wednesday, April 7, 2027

511 MELROSE OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, June 6, 2027

11:45 am – 1:15 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 1973, 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.

BRICKS & BLESSINGS



January 24, 2027

11:45 am

Fellowship Hall

Free Lunch

Matthew 7:24 says: *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock".*

Calling all builders! Whether you prefer Duplo®, LEGO®, or micro-mini bricks, join us for a free lunch, building competitions, and trivia. Discover what it means to build a foundation in Christ in a fun, relaxed environment. Admission is free, and it is a fantastic event to invite friends, family, and neighbors, too!

Contact Kaja Mueller with questions, kaja@ourredeemer.org.



NOT-SO-NEWLYWED GAME



Sunday, January 31, 2027

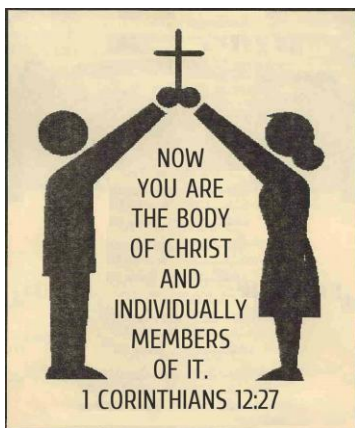
11:45 am

Fellowship Hall

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.

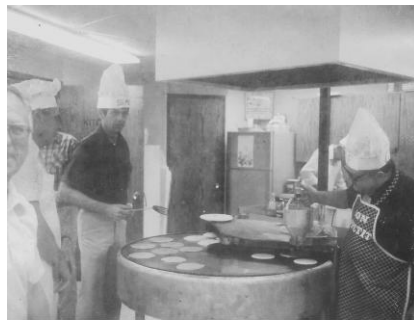


PANCAKE DAY



Saturday, March 6, 2027

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, October 7th**, 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



October 11, 2026

March 7, 2027

11:45 am

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 25, 2026

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

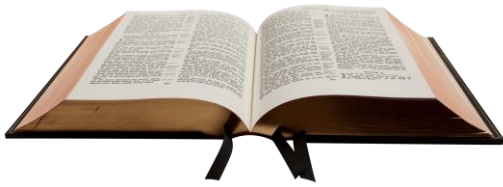
What is Trunk-or-Treat? It's when congregational members get together at church, park their cars in the parking lot, open up the trunks of their cars, and kids come to each car for goodies!



Watch ***Life Together***, our weekly publication, this Fall for more information.

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

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY



Bible study strengthens faith, provides guidance, protects against false teachings, and deepens understanding of God's Word.

Spiritual Growth and Guidance

Studying the Bible helps believers grow spiritually by providing direction in life and clarifying God's will. It serves as a lamp to guide decisions, offering wisdom and insight for daily living (Psalm 119:105) and helping believers pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14). It also nourishes the soul, allowing individuals to mature in faith and develop a deeper relationship with God.¹

Protection Against False Teachings

Bible study equips believers to recognize and resist false teachings. By understanding Scripture thoroughly, one can discern truth from error and avoid being misled by doctrines that distort God's Word (2 Timothy 2:16-18; Jude 1:4). This ensures that faith remains grounded in the truth of Christ and prevents spiritual deception.²

Understanding God and Salvation

Through Bible study, believers gain a fuller appreciation of God's character, His love, and the salvation offered through Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). It clarifies how one attains eternal life and helps believers understand the principles of righteousness, repentance, and grace.³

Rightly Handling Scripture

Studying the Bible teaches proper interpretation and application of Scripture. It helps prevent misinterpretation or "wrongly dividing the Word" (2 Timothy 2:15) and allows the Holy Spirit to guide understanding (John 16:13).² This ensures that teachings and personal beliefs align with God's intended message.

Practical and Cultural Benefits

Beyond spiritual growth, Bible study enhances cultural literacy. Many phrases, ethical principles, and historical references in art, literature, and law originate from the Bible, making it a key resource for understanding Western culture and moral foundations. It also provides wisdom for handling life's challenges, strengthens resistance to temptation, and equips believers for service and spiritual warfare.¹

Summary

Engaging in Bible study is valuable for spiritual development, protection against false teachings, understanding God's Word, and gaining practical wisdom. It nurtures faith, provides guidance, and equips believers to live a life aligned with God's purposes while deepening knowledge of Scripture and its relevance in both personal and cultural contexts.²

Material from:

¹[21 Valuable Benefits of Studying the Bible – Pursuit Bible](#)

²[5 Powerful Reasons You Need to Study the Bible - Topical Studies | Bible Study Tools](#)

³[Why should we read the Bible / study the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Bible Studies at a Glance

SUNDAY MORNING

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

No Sunday School and Bible Class on:

September 6, 2026 (Labor Day)
November 29, 2026 (Thanksgiving Weekend)
December 27, 2026 & January 3, 2027
(Christmas)
March 28, 2027 (Easter Sunday)
May 16, 2027 (The Bible is Right Celebration)
May 23, 2027 (Graduation Breakfast)
May 30, 2027 (Memorial Day Weekend)
July 4, 2027 (Independence Day)

September 13 – November 22

Body of Christ: Christ

November 29

Thanksgiving – No Class

December 6 – December 13

Body of Christ: Christ

December 27 – January 3

Christmas/New Year's – No Class

January 10 – March 21

Body of Christ: Church

March 28

Easter Sunday – No Class

April 4 – April 11

Body of Christ: Communion

April 18

Topic to be Determined

April 25 - May 9

Body of Christ: Communion

May 16

The Bible is Right Celebration

May 23

High School Graduation Breakfast

May 30

Memorial Day Weekend - No Class

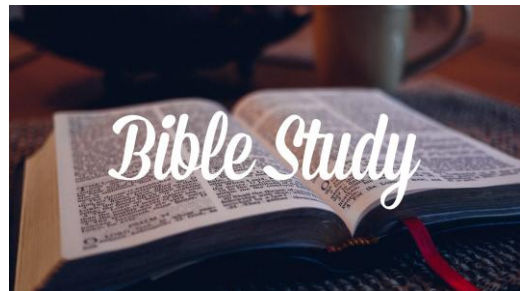
WEDNESDAY MORNING

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

The Book of Acts



WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

September 16—30;

October 14 – November 18; December 2-16

Life of Jesus: Teachings

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

January 6 – 27; February 3, 17

The Lutheran Difference: The Lord's Supper

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

February 24; March 3, 10, 31; April 7, 14

Lutheran Spirituality: Community

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

April 21

Spiritual Growth Event

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

BIBLE STUDIES

BASICS OF THE FAITH



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

Fall

October 23 & 24, 2026

Weekend Immersion

Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Spring

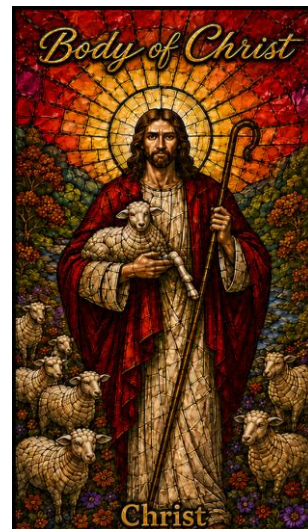
April 2 & 3, 2027

Weekend Immersion

Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Saturday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

BODY OF CHRIST: CHRIST



Sunday Morning

9:30 am – 10:10 am

September 13 – November 22

December 6 & 13, 2026

“The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us” (John 1:14). The Second Person of the Holy Trinity experienced every stage of human life. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the blessed virgin Mary, grew in wisdom and stature before the Lord. He was tempted in every way that we are, taught as One with authority, and performed miracles. He bore our sins on a tree, rose victoriously from the grave, and promises to return to earth in the same way He departed.

Central to the Body of Christ, is our Lord Jesus Himself. He took on human form, and lives and reigns over heaven and earth in His Body to this day. As Christians, we are intimately known by our Lord, and we strive to know Him more and more until we meet Him, face to face.



In this Bible study, you will get to know your Lord deeper by exploring Christ's life, from the Nativity to His promised second coming. We investigate the mystery of Christ's person by looking at several snapshots during key turning points in His life and ministry by using: (1) the "Life of Christ" mural found in the Fellowship Hall and (2) learning chronological phases of Christ's life that theologians and scholars refer to as "The Mysteries of Christ" or "Gospel Harmony Phases."



September 13, 2026

Session 1: Introduction of Theme

September 20, 2026

Session 2: Introduction to Chronological Phases

September 27, 2026

Session 3: Nativity (Luke 2:1-7)

October 4, 2026

Session 4: Finding the Christ Child in the Temple (Luke 2:41-50)

October 11, 2026

Session 5: Baptism of our Lord (Matt. 3:12-17)

October 18, 2026

Session 6: Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

October 25, 2026

Session 7: Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7)

November 1, 2026

Session 8: Parables of Jesus

November 8, 2026

Session 9: The Adulterous Woman (John 8:1-11)

November 15, 2026

Session 10: Lazarus Raised from the Dead (John 11:1-46)

November 22, 2026

Session 11: Garden of Gethsemane; Crucifixion; Easter

December 6, 2026

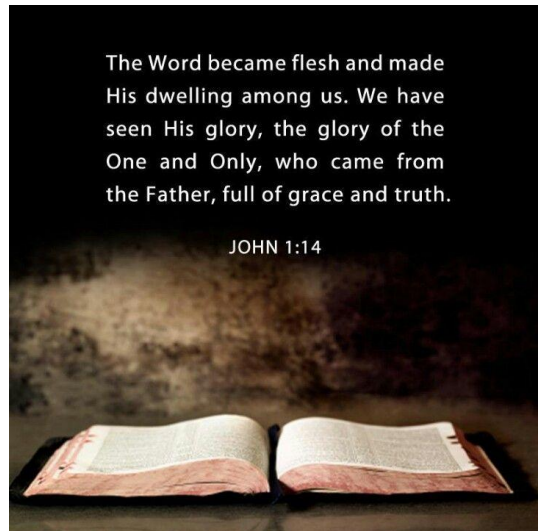
Session 12: Ascension

December 13, 2026

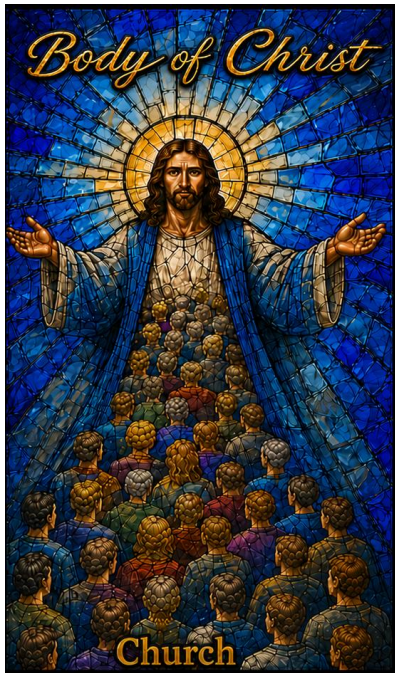
Session 13: Second Coming

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14



BODY OF CHRIST: CHURCH



Sunday Morning
9:30 am – 10:10 am
January 10 – March 21, 2027

"The body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body" (1 Cor. 12:12). A common metaphor for the Christian church is "the body of Christ." The body cannot exist without our Lord Jesus Christ as the head. We confess that all who are under the Headship of Jesus are Christians. However, you don't have to look very hard to see that different Christian bodies confess different things about what the Head has said. So, the question remains: "Is Christ divided?" (1 Cor. 1:12).

It's easy to think all Christians believe the same thing. But this tension must be maintained: Jesus' desire "that all would be one just as we are one" (John 17:22); and staying faithful to the "Words that you gave me" (John 17:8).

It can be overwhelming to sort out what each Christian body believes and why. doctrines like Baptism, Communion, and free will are not moot points of theological jargon for scholars. Topics like these divide the Body of Christ, and it is important to know why.

In *Body of Christ: Church*, the teachings of the LCMS and other Christian traditions are examined and compared. Students develop a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences that exist and are equipped to defend the truth.

January 10, 2027

Session 1: Invisible and Visible Church

January 17, 2027

Session 2: Church Fellowship

January 24, 2027

Session 3: Tradition

January 31, 2027

Session 4: Tradition

February 7, 2027

Session 5: Tradition

February 14, 2027

Session 6: Tradition

February 21, 2027

Session 7: Tradition

February 28, 2027

Session 8: Tradition

March 7, 2027

Session 9: Tradition

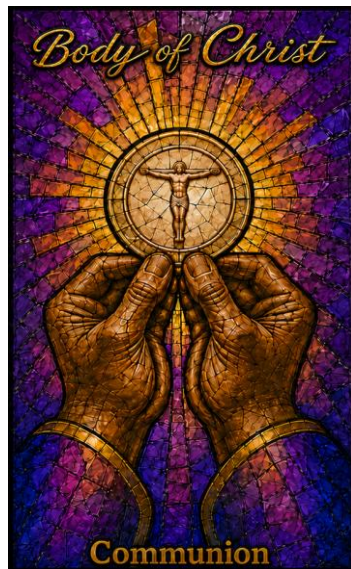
March 14, 2027

Session 10: Tradition

March 21, 2027

Session 11: Tradition

BODY OF CHRIST: COMMUNION



**Sunday Morning
9:30 am – 10:10 am
April 4 - May 9, 2027**

As faithful Lutherans, we know that Jesus is truly present “in, with, and under” the forms of bread and wine in the Eucharist. This is most certainly true. However, the Bible presents a framework that is much richer than these three prepositions.

From the beginning of time, God has desired to have full and intimate union with His people. And throughout history, God has graciously given this encounter to the Body of Believers in a multitude of ways – uniting them to Himself and granting them forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

As modern Christians, it is important to recognize the continuity between how God’s people received union with Him in the past and how our Lord communes with us today.

In *Communing with Christ*, we explore how the Lord’s Supper is not merely another

way that God distributes forgiveness, but also that our Lord Jesus is present in the Sacramental Meal for the express purpose of uniting us to Himself and all believers throughout time.

April 4, 2027

Session 1: Old Testament Shadows of the Eucharist (Part 1) – New Exodus; New Passover

April 11, 2027

Session 2: Old Testament Shadows of the Eucharist (Part 2) – New Manna; New Bread of the Presence

April 25, 2027

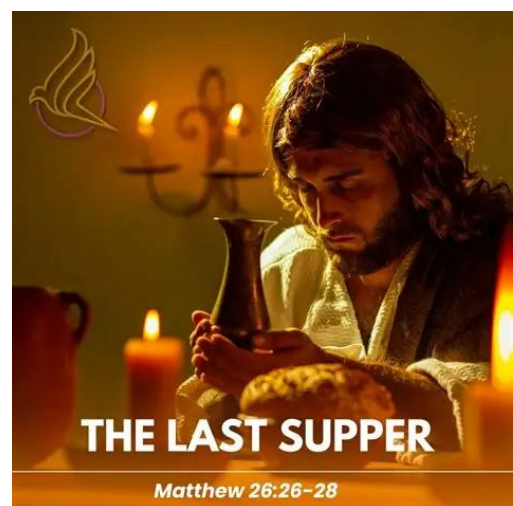
Session 3: Table Fellowship with Jesus

May 2, 2027

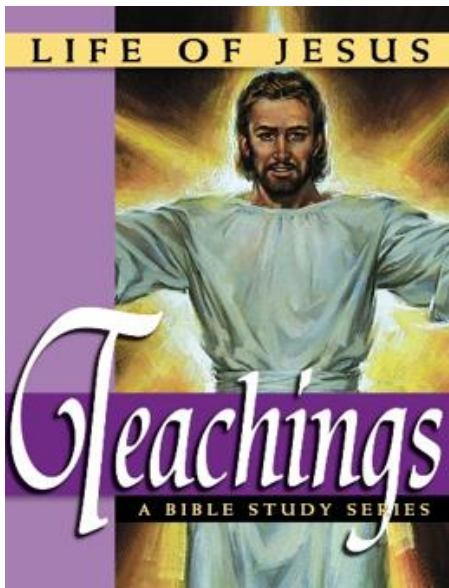
Session 4: Issues in Corinth (1 Cor. 10-11)

May 9, 2027

Session 5: Liturgical Practices in the Church Today



THE LIFE OF JESUS: TEACHINGS



**Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
September 16 – 30, October 14 -
November 18, December 2 - 16**

The Life of Jesus: Teachings 12-session study series explores Jesus' significant life events and teachings in an up close way.

Study sessions:

- Pass the Salt; Living a Blessed Life
- Hey Diddle, Diddle; Every Jot and Tittle!
- Murder He Re-Wrote
- Holy Vow! Keeping Your Word and Being Faithful
- What an Extraordinary Love!
- Hypocrite!
- Let Us Pray
- Show Me the Treasure!
- Stress Less!
- A Visine Cure for Judging Others
- Follow the Narrow Brick Road
- Why Do We Keep Fooling Around?

THE LUTHERAN DIFFERENCE: THE LORD'S SUPPER



**Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
January 6 - 27; February 3, 17**

Real Presence. Weekly Lord's Supper.
Symbolism. Infant Communion.

So many options. What do you believe?

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

Contents:

- An Overview of Christian Denominations
- Lutheran Facts
- An Ancient Meal
- Miracle of Miracles
- Given for You
- Fellowship Divine
- Communion Means Union
- Prepare the Way

LUTHERAN SPIRITUALITY: COMMUNITY



Wednesday Nights
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
February 24; March 3, 10, 31
April 7, 14

Spirituality is a common term today, but what does it mean? To find the right answer, *Lutheran Spirituality* directs adult Bible study participants to God's Word. *Lutheran Spirituality* explores the Bible, *Luther's Small Catechism*, and the Lutheran hymnal as integral resources for living out our faith in a spiritually confused and sometimes confusing world.

Lutherans confess in the words of the Augsburg Confession (Article VII) that the church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the holy Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel. The Lutheran conviction is that the church is where Jesus lives and gives His abundant gifts.

February 24, 2027

Session 1: Where Christ Is,
There Is the Church

March 3, 2027

Session 2: The Lord's Giving--Our
Receiving

March 10, 2027

Session 3: Fellowship as Partaking

March 31, 2027

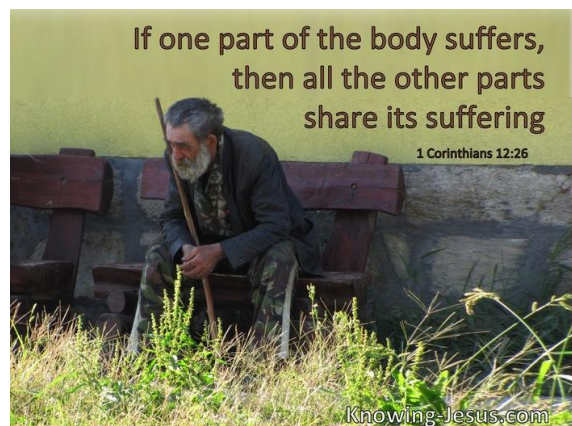
Session 4: The Gift and
Service of the Pastor

April 7, 2027

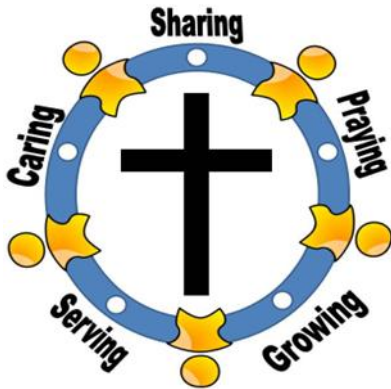
Session 5: We Are Not Alone

April 14, 2027

Session 6: Church, Family, and the World



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 Holida at email smallgroups@ourredeemer.org.

COMFORT-TIERS

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

The group meets on Thursdays from 9:00 am 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 to make top layers.
- 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 100% cotton 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 LWML 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 Beth Benson at 517-896-4518.

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.

BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN**PSALMS**

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

8:00 am – 9:30 am

[Check the online 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 on 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 of 1986. The property is maintained through LLL’s fall football parking.

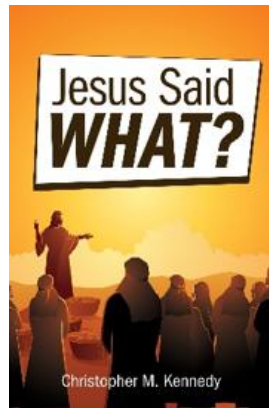
All men over age 18 are encouraged to join. Contact Jerry Sexton at 319-629-5422 for more information.



MEN AT THE CROSS

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

JESUS SAID WHAT?



Tuesday Mornings
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
September 15, 29; October 13, 27;
November 10, 24; December 8, 15

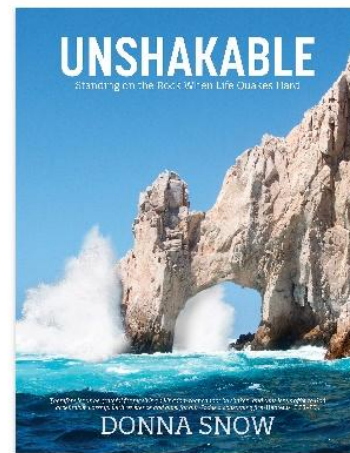
Jesus doesn't always tell you what you want to hear. But He always tells you what you need to hear, and even the hard words are a gift given to you in love.

In *Jesus Said WHAT?*, author Christopher Kennedy tackles some of Jesus' words that people may struggle to understand. It may seem easier to avoid some of Jesus' tough sayings, but instead of shying away from these passages, Kennedy urges readers to look to Scripture to understand Scripture.

As the Ten Commandments are connected with the words of Jesus, Kennedy demonstrates the Law, but reminds Christians to stay firmly focused on the forgiveness and grace that come through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He brings clarity to fifteen of Jesus' most difficult teachings, on topics such as money, family relationships, and consequences of sin.

Each chapter explores one teaching of Jesus by looking at His full treatment of the topic, parallel passages throughout the Bible, and the biblical context to help readers come to a faithful and faith-enriching understanding of Jesus' words.

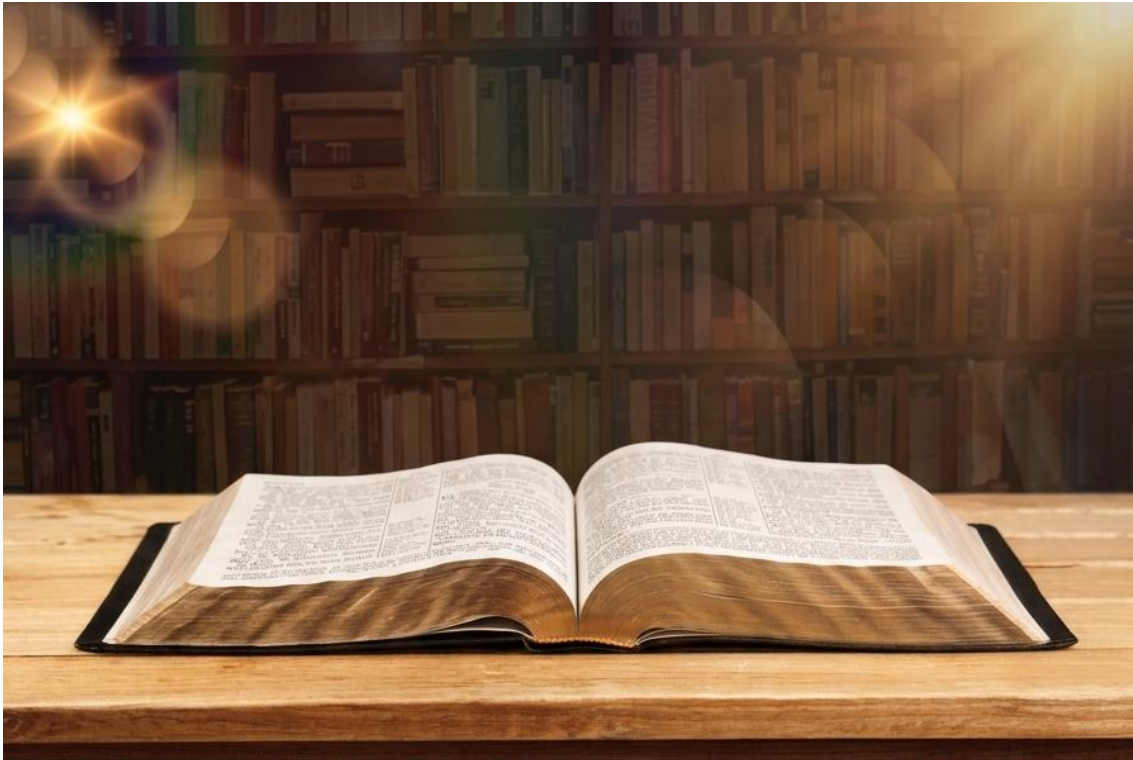
UNSHAKABLE



Tuesday Mornings
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
January 12, 26; February 9, 23;
March 9, 23; April 6, 20; May 4, 18

Unshakable is an eight-lesson DVD Bible study that looks at eight Biblical characters whom God shook to the core, then used to point people to the hope of salvation. Learn their history, peer into their struggles, and see how God moved in their lives to teach us vital spiritual lessons today.

FAITHFUL FAMILIES



FAITHFUL FAMILIES

Join our small group for Bible Study, potluck dinner, and fellowship with other families.

TIME & PLACE:

2nd & 4th Sundays
4pm-6pm

Location rotates between
hosting member homes

CONTACT:

Reach out to Kristin Weis
for more information
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 Laurel Sellers at 319-331-3242 for more information.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

December 5, 2026

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 *Life Together*. Please plan to attend any get-together; all women are already members!

CONTACT

Any questions, contact Laura Stresow, LWML president, at 218-310-9307.

2026-2027 LWML SCHEDULE

2026

July 17-18	IED Fall Retreat Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	
August 15	Road Trip – Matchstick Marvels Museum Gladbrook, IA	
September 21	Salad Potluck	6:00 pm
	Vicar Morse	
September 26	Fall Zone Event	9:00 am
	St Paul's, Marion	
October 15	Crowded Closet	5:00 pm
	Servant Event	
October 17	World Relief Pickup	8:00 am
October 18	LWML Sunday	
October 19	Business Meeting	7:00 pm
November 16	Prison Ministry	7:00 pm
	<i>Carol Holman</i>	
December 5	Christmas Cookie Walk	9:00 am – 11:00 am
December 7	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
December 14	LWML Christmas Party	6:00 pm
December 16	Advent Supper	5:10 pm
	LWML serves Advent meal	

2027

January 21	Kitchen Cleaning	1-4 pm
February 15	Bunco Night	7:00 pm
	Nominating Committee (Vice President, Treasurer)	
March 15	Nancy Drew	7:00 pm
	<i>Anna Holland</i>	
March 17	Lenten Meal	5:10 pm
	LWML serves Lenten meal	
April TBA	Spring Zone Event	
	Trinity, Cedar Rapids	
April TBA	Spring World Relief Pickup	
April 10	Tasting Bee	11:00 am
April 19	Diane Burke	7:00 pm
	<i>Craft Making Demonstration</i>	
	Election of Officers	
May 10	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
	2027-2028 Calendar Planning	
May 17	Guild Night Out	6:00 pm
July 8-11	LWML National Convention	
	Oklahoma City, OK	
	<i>"Transformed in Christ"</i>	
	(Rom 12:2)	
July	No meeting	
August TBA	Road Trip	
September 20	Salad Potluck	6:00 pm

Youth

6th – 12th Graders

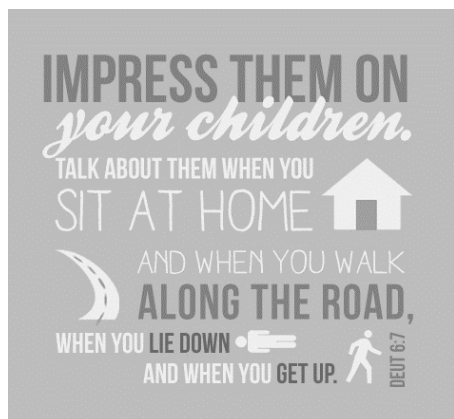
Mission Statement

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. Adult chaperones are not charged a fee.

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. There is no cost for the fall retreats.

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. There is a registration fee for students but they can use their church prize account funds or ask for a scholarship.

SPRING

This special retreat is for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and their parents. It is a weekend, out-of-state 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). There is a registration fee for students but they can use their church prize account funds or ask for a scholarship.

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 and equipping them 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.

Friends are always welcome!

Classroom Location

High School students meet in the Youth Room. See the church map on page 55 of this booklet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings at 9:20 am until 10:15 am in the Youth Room. This time together gives high school youth the opportunity to understand and grow in God's Word and build on the foundation given them in Baptism and Confirmation classes. We use the Enduring Faith curriculum that traces God's plan of salvation throughout the entire Bible which points students to Jesus, their Savior. The students learn how to defend their faith and explain it to others.

Sunday school is held year-round, except for select holidays and other special church events. Look in our weekly ***Life Together*** for further announcements. For more information, contact the church office at redeemer@ourredeemer.org or call 319-338-5626.

MIDWEEK



High School Midweek meets in the Youth Room 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 a place for students to **connect with friends, grow in faith, and enjoy being together.**

Wednesday nights provide a welcoming environment where high school students can step away from their busy schedules, build meaningful relationships, and grow together as Christians. High School Midweek is a safe place where youth can share their faith and ask questions about God.

Our gatherings include a variety of **fun, fellowship, service, conversation, and time in God's Word.** While each week may look a little different, the purpose remains the same: creating a strong Christian community where students are encouraged in their faith and equipped to follow Jesus in everyday life.

Come for the community. Grow in faith. Follow Christ together.

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 2026 is **Saturday, November 21st** at the 5:30 pm service and **Sunday, November 22nd** 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 13th** 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 2027 are **June 19 – 26, 2027.**

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 including 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.

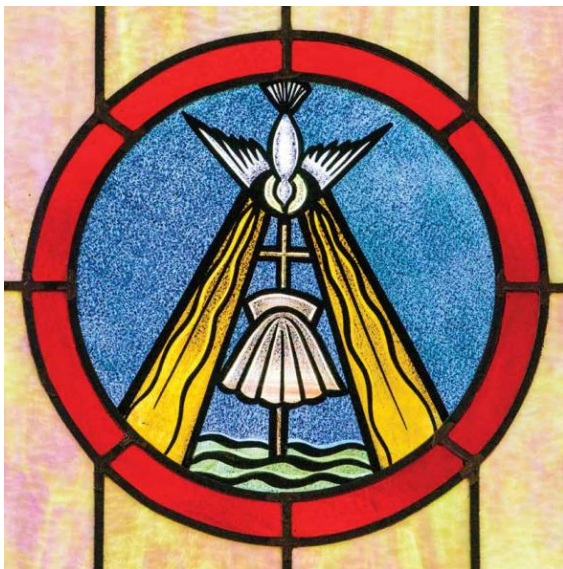
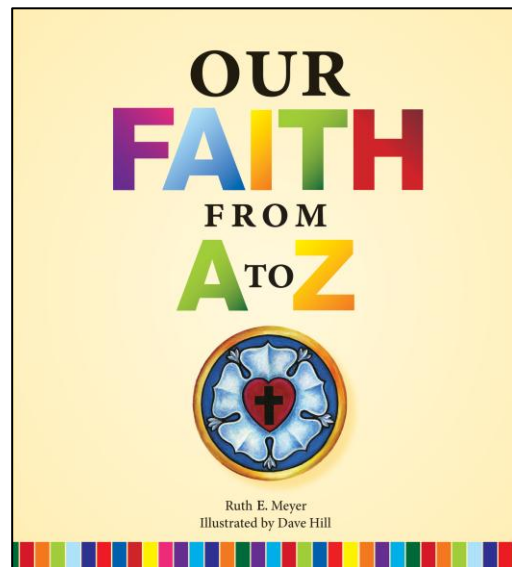


Mission Statement

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 being brought into God's family. 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

Tuesday/Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

5 Days
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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.

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

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

KIDS CLUB



(Children in PreK 4 – 5th grade)

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 redeemer@ourredeemer.org.

Every Wednesday evening at Kids Club, the children hear Bible stories, learn Bible verses, and sing songs. Other activities include games, crafts, and mission projects. 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 16, 2026. We meet every Wednesday night from 6:45 pm until 8:00 pm. The last night of Kids Club will be Wednesday, April 21, 2027.

CANCELLATION

If the Iowa City schools are cancelled due to weather conditions 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

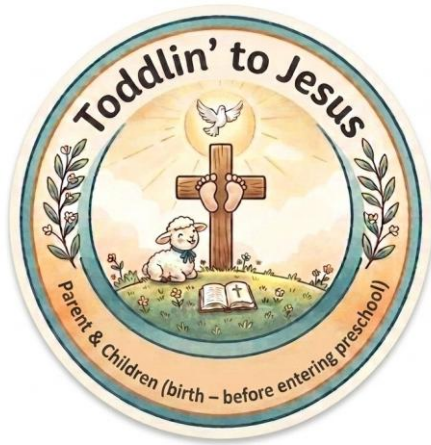
A light snack will be provided. Please note any food allergies when registering your child.

CLASSROOM LOCATION

See the church map on page 55 of this booklet.

**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.
-Philippians 4:11b-13**

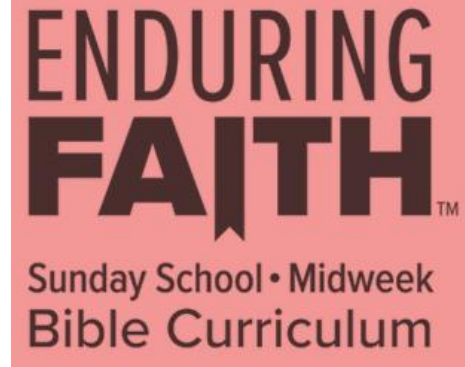
SUNDAY SCHOOL



(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 **Life Together** 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 55 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 16, 2027. 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 13, 2026, 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 5 and 12, 2026, 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 1-5, 2027

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 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 November 8, 2026, 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 1, 2026
11:45 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 ***Life Together*** 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.

BEST DAY BOX

Members of our congregation donate a box of cake mix and a container of frosting. This is paired with a baking pan, a can of soda, and directions to bake a cake. Our committee assembles these supplies to benefit the CommUnity Food Bank. This is designed to allow families to celebrate special moments such as a birthday, anniversary, a new job, or moving into a new home.

COMMUNITY SPREAD THE LOVE CAMPAIGN



February is the CommUnity Spread the Love Campaign peanut butter and jelly drive. Notices are put in ***life Together*** 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 **Life Together** 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 75 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 as performing 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:

Eswatini luncheon Nov 22, 2026

MOST Mini-Mission Trip

March 7-12, 2027

Panama luncheon April 4, 2027

UKANDU June 19-26, 2027

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.



Eswatini Mission



Panama Eyeglass Clinic



Panama VBS Mission

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.

- Lent Outreach Activity: family oriented activity (involving games, crafts, etc) that is an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to have fun and experience the Easter story.
- 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: provide opportunities for Our Redeemer members to purchase, wrap, and deliver Christmas gifts from incarcerated parents to their children.

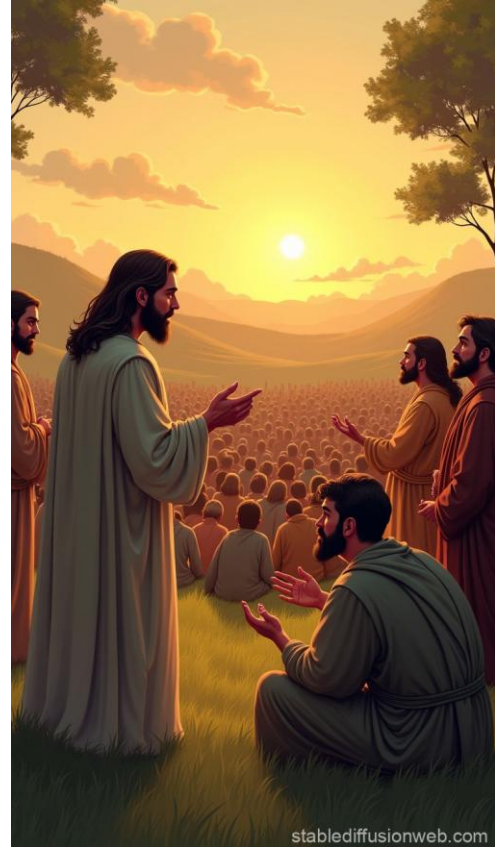
Our committee also encourages Our Redeemer members to use these opportunities, as well as Trivia Challenge, Vacation Bible School, and other activities to reach out and invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others. As we reach out to others to meet some of their needs, we can then share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

For more information, contact Carol Holman, chairperson of the Outreach Committee, at 651-226-7722.

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:

LIFE TOGETHER

A new look! The time has come to reevaluate the weekly and monthly publications. **Reflections** was our weekly, more immediate source of information. Originally the **Beacon** served to keep in touch with our shut-ins and provide the congregation with a snail-mailed version of church activities. In August of 2012, the **Beacon** took on its present look and became a publication to look forward to events, but mainly to recap the happenings of the past month. As the church began to send out the email link for the **Beacon**, the distinction started to dwindle. Those picking up a hard copy were sometimes confused as to which was the current communication.

The result is a new weekly which will combine elements of both. **Life Together** will provide all the **Reflections** information and add the recaps of activities—pictures, board minutes, current articles. As always our weekly church newsletter will seek to help us reflect on how God is working within the Body of Christ here at Our Redeemer.

Life Together will continue to be emailed Friday of each week and can be found on the wire rack in the office or located online at www.ourredeemer.org under the publications tab.

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



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 319-430-0661.

COMMUNICATION CABINETS

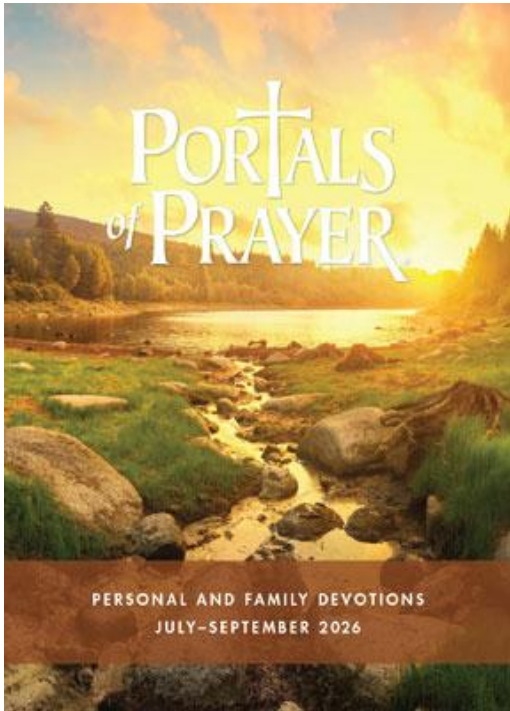
To provide a way to stay in communication with one another, each member family of Our Redeemer is assigned a communication box located in the hallway opposite the nursery.

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 **Life Together**, 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.

These are checked out on the honor system. The cards no longer need to be signed and left at the desk. Return books when you are finished.

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

Luella Feldman 515-480-8219

Laurel Sellers 319-331-3242



Worship Connections:



Bringing Out the Best of the Body of Christ (Stewardship Sermon Series)

The Bible asserts that nothing in our “possession” is truly ours. Heaven and earth and the fullness thereof belong to God alone (Ps. 24:1). This includes our very own bodies! “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:20).

All that we have is a gift, freely given by God. Through the generosity of Jesus, we have been made members of the Body of Christ; that is, His church. Each member of Christ’s Body is called to be a steward – one who reflects Jesus’ generosity through charitable distribution of the gifts God entrusts to us.

In this sermon series, we will meditate on how God has called us to steward our Treasure, Talents, and Time. In “Treasure: The Problem with Money”, we celebrate the immeasurable debt Jesus has paid through His death on the cross, and how this empowers us to use our resources for the expansion of His kingdom. In “Talents:

The Joy of Investing Yourself”, we appreciate how God uniquely equips each member of the Body with skills and abilities, that enables us to share the joy of everlasting life with others. Finally, in “Time: Maximizing Minutes for the Master”, we value God’s perfect timing in Salvation history, and how the Body participates in that story by stewarding the limited time we have well.

September 20, 2026

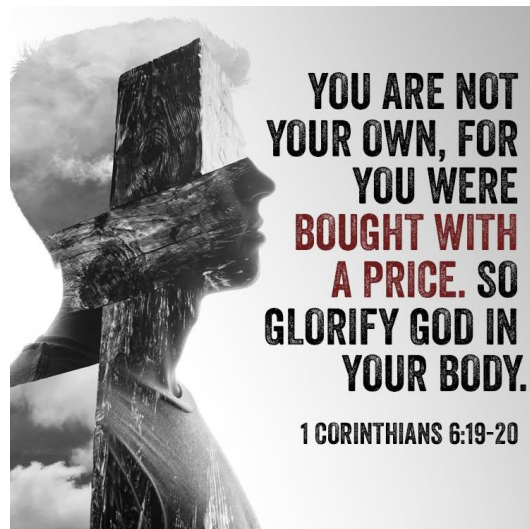
Treasure: The Problem with Money
(1 Timothy 6:17-19)

October 11, 2026

Talents: The Joy of Investing Yourself
(Matthew 25:14-30)

November 15, 2026

Time: Maximizing Minutes for the Master
(Colossians 4:3, 5-6)



O Come, O Come, Body of Christ (Advent Sermon Series)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel has long been a favorite hymn for Christians during the season of Advent. Each stanza of this hymn is inspired by the church's celebration of the O Antiphons. The O Antiphons are seven Messianic titles from the Old Testament that find their fulfillment in Jesus' person and work. Written in Latin – as seen in the graphic below – the first letter of each title in reverse creates the acrostic phrase *ERO CRAS* "Tomorrow, I will come." The practice of the church going back to the 8th century was to spend each day leading up to Christmas meditating on each distinct title of Christ in anticipation of His coming.



On Sundays and Wednesdays throughout the season of Advent, Our Redeemer will join with the Body of Christ – Christians spanning from the days of Moses to Isaiah to today – who adored and anticipated our God who tabernacled among us bodily. Each day will be devoted to a specific O

Antiphon, and meditation will be guided by Scripture and its accompanying stanza from *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

Sunday, November 29th, 2026

O Clavis David "O Key of David"

Revelation 3:7; Stanza 5

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026

O Radix Jesse "O Root of Jesse"

Isaiah 11:1-10; Stanza 4

Sunday, December 6th, 2026

O Adonai "O Lord and Ruler"

Exodus 3:1-6, 13-15; Stanza 3

Wednesday, December 9th, 2026

O Oriens "O Dayspring/Dawn"

Luke 1:68-79; Stanza 6

Sunday, December 13th, 2026

O Emmanuel "O With us is God"

Isaiah 7:10-14; Stanza 1

Wednesday, December 16th, 2026

O Sapientia "O Wisdom"

Colossians 1:24-2:3; Stanza 2

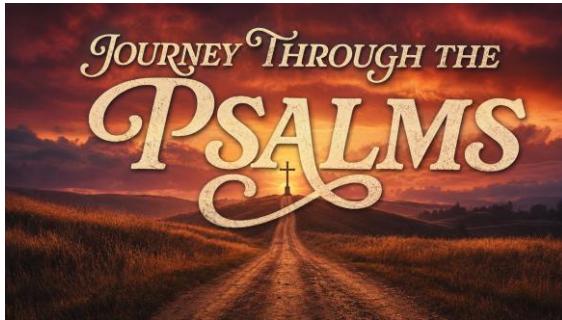
Wednesday, December 23rd, 2026

O Rex Gentium "O King of the Nations"

Psalms 72; Stanza 7



Journey through the Psalms (Lenten Sermon Series)



In the Psalms, we experience the poetic prayers the Body of Christ has cherished across time. These prayers are emotional, highly imaginative, and clothed in beauty. David, the prototype of the people of God, foresaw the life of Christ. David speaks chiefly of Jesus in these perfect prayers; however, Christ also speaks in and through the Body with the Psalms to guide God's people in how to pray, think, and feel.

In this series, we will embark on a journey through the penitential season. Throughout the journey, the Body of Christ's "prayer book" will be used to encounter the Shepherd's guiding voice. Here, Jesus' voice in the Psalms will lead the flock (1) to reveal the importance of sorrow over our sin, (2) to provide us with language to express our grief, shame, and distress, and (3) to deliver His life-giving Word of promise that enables us to trust in God's deliverance.

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

Ash Wednesday: What It Is to Be Penitent
Psalm 6

Sunday, February 14, 2027

Lent 2: Blessed Are the Penitent
Psalm 32

Sunday, February 21, 2027

Lent 3: The Disposition of the Penitent
Psalm 38

Sunday, February 28, 2027

Lent 4: The Penitent Prays for a Purified
Heart
Psalm 51

March 7, 2027

Lent 5: The Afflicted Penitent Hopes in the
Eternal Lord
Psalm 102

March 14, 2027

Lent 6: The Penitent Waits Patiently on the
Lord
Psalm 130

March 21, 2027

Palm Sunday: The Penitent Trusts in the
Lord's Salvation
Psalm 118

March 25, 2027

Maundy Thursday: The Penitent Thirsts for
the Lord
Psalm 143

March 26, 2027

Good Friday: Our Lord Did This for You!
Psalm 22



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 four 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 2, 2026
Wednesday, December 9, 2026
Wednesday, December 16, 2026
Wednesday, December 23, 2026

Lenten Dinners

Wednesday, February 17, 2027
Wednesday, February 24, 2027
Wednesday, March 3, 2027
Wednesday, March 10, 2027
Wednesday, March 17, 2027

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, March 24, 2027, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

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 September 9, 2026, 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.

MEDICAL CLOSET

If you are in need of basic medical equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, shower stools, canes, or walkers, please contact our Office Coordinator, Lorrie Bailey, at 319-338-5626.

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 special 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 319-331-5369 or kempnicks@msn.com.

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 319-338-5626 or Skip Kempnich at kempnicks@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 service slides 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 2026-2027Calendar

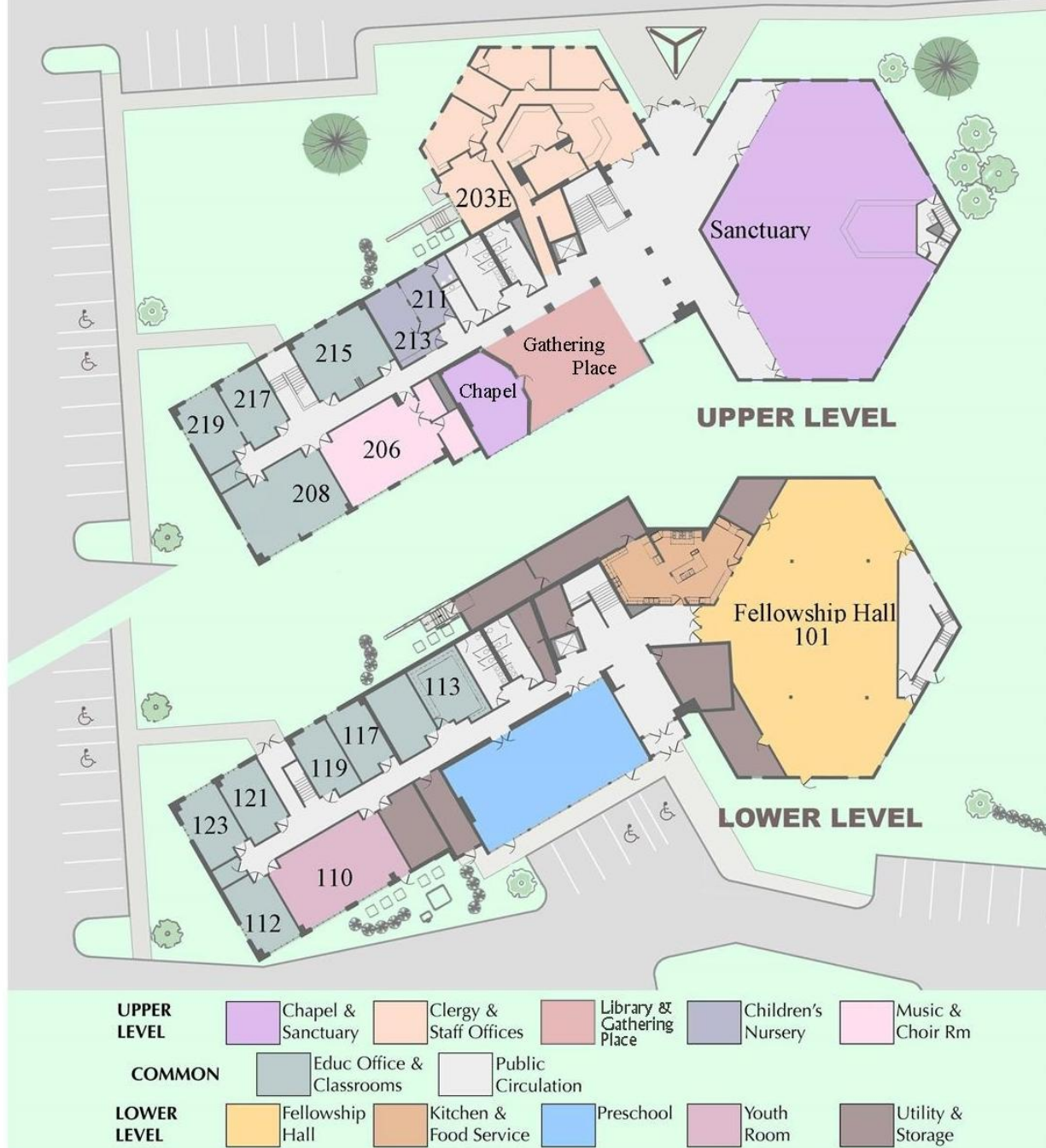
Available at www.ourredeemer.org
Click on 'Master Calendar'

Printed copies of the monthly calendar are available at the beginning of each month. They will be on the office counter that weekend and for the month following.

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



Directory



Sunday Morning Classrooms:

Age/Grade	Room Number
Toddlin' to Jesus (0-2 Year Olds)	215-Classroom (Toddlin')
Pre-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	121-Classroom
6 th /7 th /8 th Grades	208-Classroom (Adult Ed)
High School	110-Youth Room
Adult	101-Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Classrooms:

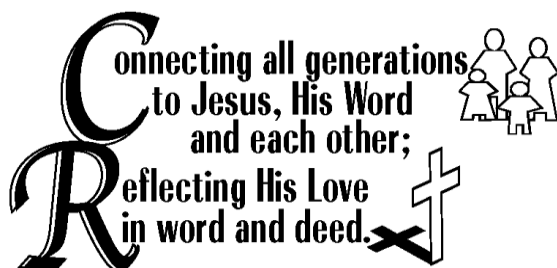
Age/Grade	Room Number
Prek4 – 5 th Grade – Kids Club	215-Classroom (Toddlin')
6 th Grade Small Group, Girls 8 th Grade Small Group, Girls	117-Classroom
6 th Grade Small Group, Boys 8 th Grade Small Group, Boys	119-Classroom
7 th Grade Small Group, Girls	121-Classroom
7 th Grade Lecture 7 th Grade Small Group, Boys	123-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

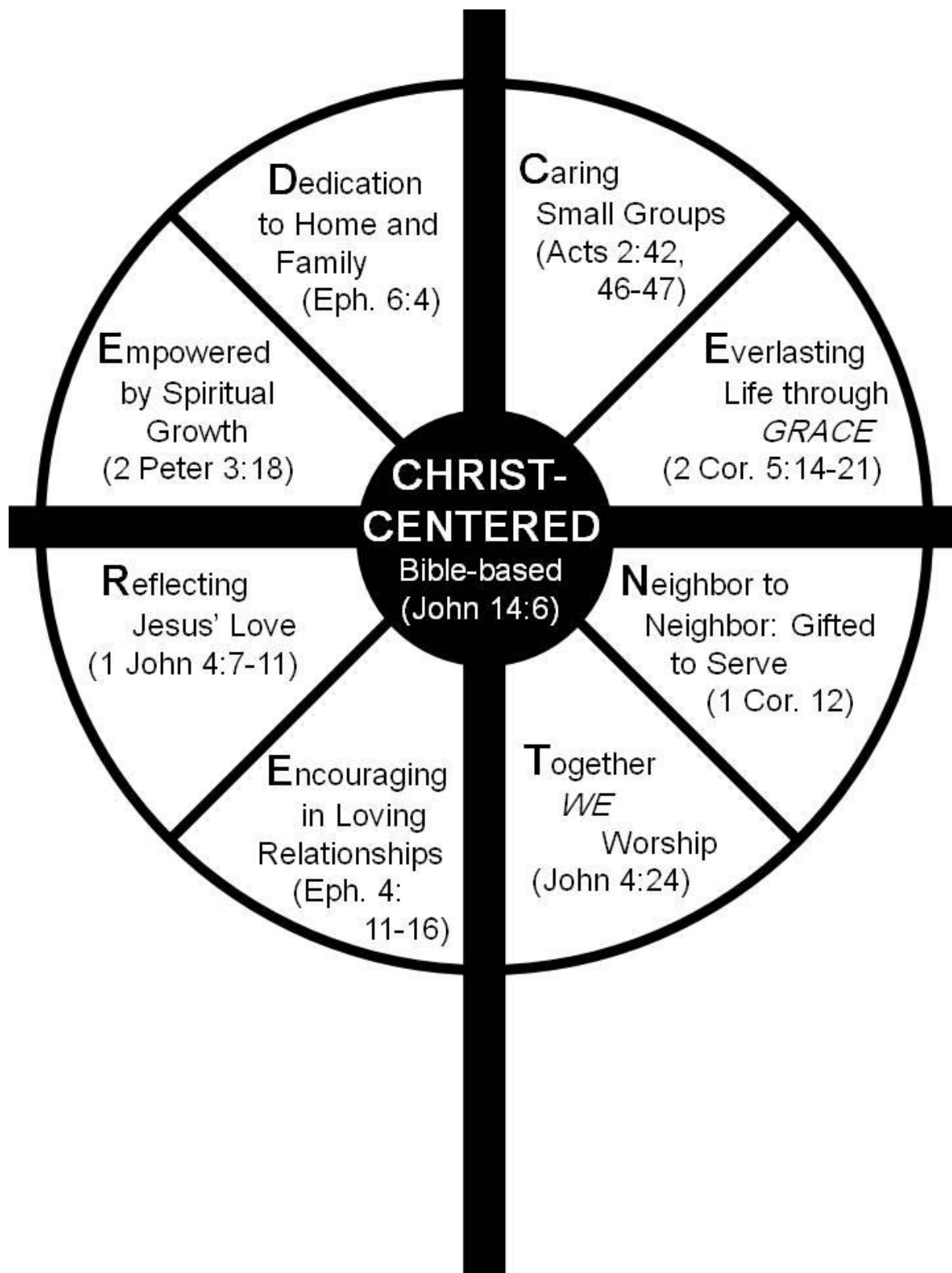
We believe that all of us—individually and corporately—are to reflect Jesus' unconditional love in word and deed, living the Christian life as followers (disciples) of Christ. (1 John 4:7-11)

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.