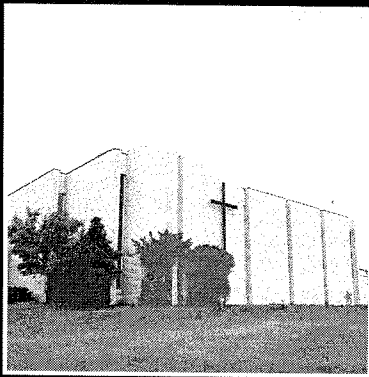


THE REDEEMER READER

January A+D 2020

Volume 96, Issue 1



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

420 W. Breitung Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802
(906) 774-1844

www.ourredeemerkingsford.org

Divine Service every Sunday
9:00 A.M.

Sunday School
(Sept.-May) 10:30 A.M.

Sunday Bible Study
(Year-Round) 10:30 A.M.

Thursday Bible Study
(Year-Round) 10:00 A.M.


THE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MISSOURI
SYNOD

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Since January is the month in which we celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, I share with you the following article from Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life.

*In Christ our Lord,
Pastor Ruesch*

Thirty inches of snow fell in metro Washington, D.C. Thirty inches of snow stranded me in northern Virginia after the 2016 March for Life. I was supposed to travel to Kansas on Saturday. I couldn't catch a flight until Monday afternoon. Thirty inches of snow piled up in about thirty hours. Parked cars were covered in drifts. Shoveled driveways left heaps of snow higher than a man's head. It had started while we were still marching. Soft white snow thickly blanketed the Supreme Court, the Capitol, and the White House. Airplanes could not fly above it. Trains could not run below it. Cars, trucks, and buses could not push through it.

An entire region—the heart of a nation—had to face it. Snow: pretty to the eye but bitter to the touch, renewing our sense of humanity, revealing the weight of mortality. On the day we recalled opening the door to the slaughter of innocents, the Lord God Almighty flung wide the gates of heaven and buried us two-and-a-half feet under in the grave we ourselves excavated. Broken-hearted Father buried them, buried us, buried it all in stark white.

Snow plays a religious role. Snow declares the Word of the Lord. Even the snow speaks the plea and the verdict of God. "Praise the Lord from the earth ... snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!" (Psalm 148:7-8). "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth ... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose" (Isaiah 55:10-11).

The snow reflects our condition. The snow outlines and reminds us of sinfulness. Our problem cannot be brushed aside like a few irritating symptoms—just a couple of poor choices, only a handful of foolish decisions, occasional mistakes, or isolated failures. Abortion and atheism, adultery and assisted suicide are not the only enemies or even the primary ones. Sin has us all over because it has us within—systemic infection thirty inches deep all the way to the core. By the time you detect it, it's too late; this leprosy has eaten away from the inside out. "And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow" (Exodus 4:6). "When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow" (Numbers 12:10).

Snow also sketches the character of one hurt worse by it than even we are. Snow echoes the countenance of the Creator who intimately abides with us. He approaches as gently as snow. He applies to our dirty earth His own refreshing, snow-white holiness. He accompanies us pitiful creatures down under our burden to the very bottom—just like snow does not stay suspended in clouds but falls all the way until touching the ground. He cloaks over our world's awfulness with His unconditional compassion. The broken body of Jesus Christ crucified covers our every brokenness, and His blood, melted straight from the heart of God our Heavenly Father, atones and redeems all that no self-spun superficial sprinkling ever will. Snow serves as a sign of life lent by summer's seas within winter's winds to spring's soil.

"And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow ... But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen'" (Matthew 28:2-6). "In the midst of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow; and his eyes were like a flame of fire" (Revelation 1:13-14).

Snow announces divine and eternal forgiveness. Snow shouts about the grace that outlasts death and sinfulness, including ours, even when we have selfishly stolen sanctity from the lives God Himself gave it to. "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool" (Isaiah 1:18). "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). Even thirty inches over the entire eastern seaboard cannot exhaust or contain such a powerful love. It belongs to every human being created, redeemed, and called—like you and me—by Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And that is more than enough to justify us all together, no matter what our stage or state of life.

Board of Missions

Hello,

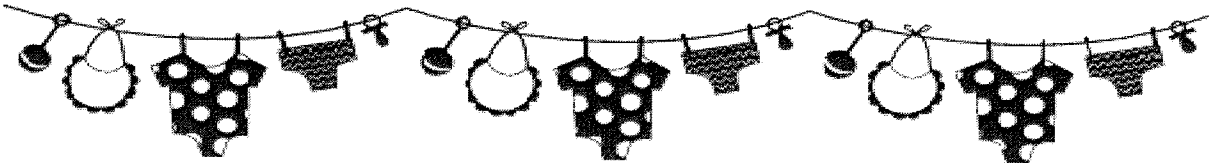
Helping Hands is a committee of members under the auspices of the Board of Missions. Its mission is to serve members of our congregation and the community through providing assistance for minor home repairs, yard work, wheelchair ramps, and other small projects. Helping Hands also funds the annual Thanksgiving Baskets.

Currently, we have a fund balance for Helping Hands of \$2258. In the past, we have raised money for Helping Hands through our annual Rummage Sale, which provided us with another \$2500 or more for the coming year. Because we no longer have enough volunteers for the rummage sale, we will be unable to hold that event this year. So, we are asking that you consider any amount of donation during the coming year. You may make out a check to Our Redeemer Helping Hands or donate cash and give this to our Church Secretary at your convenience. We hope you will prayerfully consider this donation.

THE NEXT MEETING WIL BE January 4, at 9:00 A.M.

Sincerely in Christ,
Carol Thornton, Board of Missions Chair

Our Redeemer Health and Wellness Ministry will have a "Baby Shower for Jesus" again this Jan. The items donated are used for infants of the congregation and for children who are being Baptized. The crib will be in the entry for the donated "Baby Shower" gifts.



Our Redeemer Health and Wellness Ministry will be offering a CPR/AED class in February. This CPR/AED class will be Monday February 10th at 5 pm. In the past JJ Johnson has taught this class, but I have not been able to contact him. This year the instructor will be Chad Hedmark from the Iron Mountain Fire Department. There will be a \$10.00 fee for the course, if I remember correctly. I will have a sign up sheet put on the Welcome desk in the entryway of the church.



ATTENTION: Blood pressure checks will be taken after worship at 10:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month by our Parish Nurses in the conference room in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE CHURCH

Baptism	
Brynley Marie Geiger	December 8, 2019
Funeral	
Willard Bednarz	December 6, 2019

ECONO/SUPER ONE RECEIPTS

Have you been saving grocery slips? Have you been turning them into Our Redeemer? There is a large white bucket under the LWML card table labeled for Econo/Super One slips. We receive 1% of each \$1.00 you spend on groceries through their rebate programs. Sherry Caduto has graciously been tallying them up. The money goes into the Youth Program checking account. We use the money to sponsor our Compassion Child which is \$480 a year. There is also a container for stamps & ink cartridges however, they only accept Inkjets (they DO NOT accept Laser/Toner cartridges). Your support is greatly appreciated.



LWML-LADIES' GUILD
"Serve the Lord with Gladness"

After the Christmas luncheon was postponed due to bad weather, the ladies and Pastor gathered on December 16th at Maple Creek. After delicious lunches, we had a Christmas program related to the letters that spelled "Christmas." Our Love offering of \$150 was for the Cancer Closet.

Our next monthly meeting is on Monday, January 13, 2020. The Bible study will be "Why the Joy of the Lord is Our Strength" presented by Barb Carlson, our Christian Growth chairperson. We will begin planning for military care packages and developing a theme for the ladies' spring banquet.

LWML DATES to KEEP in MIND.

Jan. 30, 2020—Monthly Meeting 1 p.m.
2020 NWD Convention—Green Bay, WI
2021 Nat. LWML Convention—Lexington, KY
2022 NWD Convention—Marquette, MI
2023 Nat. LWML Convention

Mites always welcome and greatly appreciated!

Cards are available on the LWML table in the Fellowship hall.

Serving the Lord with gladness
Sisters to Christ
LWML Ladies and Caren Erickson, President



Our Redeemer Children, Youth and Family Ministries

- Sunday School Every Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. Sept. through May. All children are welcome!
- Youth Confirmation Class Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. Sept. through May
- Bible Study Opportunities Sundays, 10:30 following fellowship. Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.



VISIT WWW.CAMPLUTHER.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THESE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES.

CAMP LUTHER SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Registration for summer camps opened January 1! Check out the website to learn everything you need to know about registration. We hope to see you in the summer!

WIN A WEEK (or weekend) AT CAMP If you register for a Summer 2020 program by January 7th, you'll be entered into a drawing to come to camp at NO COST to you (besides travel)! You must pay your deposit to be entered. If chosen, your deposit will be reimbursed.

FORT VILLAGE If you attended Camp Luther last summer, you may remember new Fort Village being under construction. We are excited to announce that it will be open for Summer 2020! If you would like to help finish the project, look for an opportunity to volunteer this spring during For Village Construction Week.

JUNIOR COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 1st! Being a JC is truly a once in a lifetime experience! You meet new friends, grow in your leadership, and get to share your faith in God's beautiful creation. You'll learn from mentors all around you what it means to follow Christ and how to guide campers in that journey. JC's are such a blessing! So, what are you waiting for? If you're in 10th -12th grade, apply today.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Get ready for the hardest job you'll ever love! A summer on staff at camp means diving into something that immerses you in what it means to love Jesus and love like Jesus. Each summer, Camp Luther hires around 45 college-aged staff, including summer counselors, leadership staff, and specialty staff (kitchen and maintenance). If you're a college student, consider applying for summer staff 2020!

CAMP LUTHER COTTAGES Slow down your pace of life for a while. Is there a better way to enjoy winter than staying in a lake-front cottage with hundreds of acres for snow fun at your doorstep? Didn't think so. Book a cottage at Camp Luther and enjoy time in nature, reconnecting with God and the ones you love. Check out the website for rates and information on their 2- and 3-bedroom cottages!

CUSTOM GROUP RETREATS Get away to the Northwoods for a retreat designed specifically for your group. Enjoy all winter has to offer with your youth, men's, women's, or small group. Or your whole congregation! February 14-16 (President's Day weekend aka 3-day weekend) is open for booking! To book, contact Beemer at beemer@cmapluther.com or 715-546-3647.

WINTER YOUTH RETREATS Youth will love the outdoor activities and Bible study (and hot chocolate). Adult leaders will love seeing them grow in their faith and as a team. Bring your youth group to Camp this January! Camp Luther has three different weekend retreats for both middle schoolers and high schoolers. Visit our website to learn more and to register.

AMAZON SMILE Want an easy way to support Camp? Do your online shopping at smile.amazon.com and select Camp Luther as the non-profit of your choice! Then, you can do all of your normal shopping (Christmas or everything else), and support Camp at the same time!

CAMP LUTHER GIFT CERTIFICATES Looking for the perfect gift for your children or grandchildren? A Camp Luther Gift Certificate can be purchased in any amount and may be used for Camp Luther summer camps, cottage bookings, and in the canteen! To order, call camp at 715-546-3647

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT CAMPAIGN Camp Luther is in the midst of their \$5 million, five-year, comprehensive campaign supporting the Outdoor Ministry Fund, Every Kid to Camp, and capital improvement projects. Your involvement in this campaign as an investor, volunteer, or champion in your congregation, is a wonderful blessing to Camp! To find information, resources, and updates on the campaign, visit the campaign website, <http://filledwiththespirit.org>

Camp Luther is a subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS. Our mission is to build up believers in Christ for service to the church and witness to the world.



Serving in God's House This Month

Sunday Divine Service 9:00 am †

January 5

Elders: Mark Mortl, Dave Muchka
Ushers: Alex Reed, Jim Reed
Organist: Don Hoaglund
Coffee Host/Hostess: Volunteers
Nursery: Sharon Thone
Greeters: Needed
Acolyte: Wyatt Harris

January 12

Elder: Dana Bey, Ed Thornton
Ushers: Scott Schoenborn, Scott Wegner
Organist: Don Hoaglund
Coffee Host/Hostess: Volunteers
Nursery: Sharon Thone
Greeters: Needed
Acolyte: Maddex Smith

January 19

Elders: Mark Mortl, Brent Walker
Ushers: Michael Kiltinen, Jim Weber
Organist: Marian Volek
Coffee Host/Hostess: Volunteers
Nursery: Sharon Thone
Greeters: Needed
Acolyte: Jaden Thone

January 26

Elders: Dana Bey, Damian Treiber
Ushers: Rick Hinkley, Scott Wegner
Organist: Don Hoaglund
Coffee Host/Hostess: Volunteers
Nursery: Sharon Thone
Greeters: Needed
Acolyte: Layla Muchka

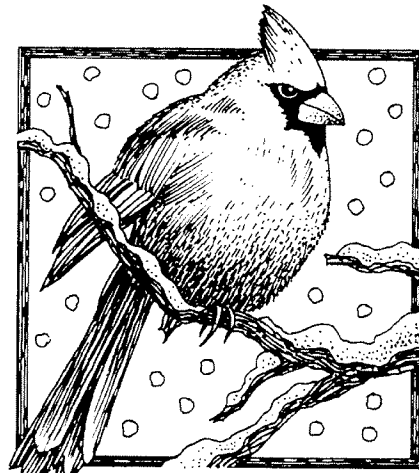
Special Service 7:00 PM

January 6, Epiphany

Elder: Gary Peterson
Usher: Ed Thornton
Acolyte: Chloe Patton

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

Wednesday, November 27 (7:00 PM)	28
Sunday, December 1 (9:00 AM)	42
Wednesday, December 4 (7:00 PM)	29
Sunday, December 8 (9:00 AM)	133
Wednesday, December 11 (7:00 PM)	21
Sunday, December 15 (9:00 AM)	88
Wednesday, December 18 (7:00 PM)	20



Winter



January is National Blood Donor Month

This January, the American Red Cross celebrates National Blood Donor Month and recognizes the lifesaving contribution of blood and platelet donors. As we begin the New Year, the Red Cross encourages individuals to resolve to roll up a sleeve to give this month and throughout 2018.

National Blood Donor Month has been observed in January since 1970 with the goal of increasing blood and platelet donations during winter – one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs. During the winter months, inclement weather often results in cancelled blood drives, and seasonal illnesses like the flu may cause some donors to become temporarily unable to donate.

Blood donation appointments can be made by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or to receive more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Five health benefits from donating blood:

- Free blood tests – donated blood is tested and donor can be asked to be informed if any irregularities are found.
- Satisfaction of saving human lives
- Calorie burn – Blood donation process burns 650 calories – about the same as an average spin class!
- Reduced risk of heart disease – helps eliminate excess buildup of iron in the blood
- Reduced risk of cancer – also due to reduction of excess iron buildup in the blood

Why is Donating Blood Important?

- There is no substitute for blood.
- We need at least 1,000 units of blood and about 200 platelet donors per month to help our kids.
- "Fresh" blood is always needed for our infant patients.
- Type O blood is the universal blood donor, but we encourage all blood type donors.

Give blood. Don't wait for a disaster. Someone needs blood now! Contact the American Red Cross or your local blood bank for more information. Use #NationalBloodDonorMonth and #GiveBlood to share on social media. Here are some of the biggest reasons giving blood is so important.

- About 36,000 units of red blood cells and 7,000 units of platelets are needed every single day in the U.S.
- The most requested blood type by hospitals is type O. This kind of blood can be transfused to patients of all blood types, so it's always in great demand and very short supply. Only 7% of people in the U.S. have type O.
- A single car accident victim may need up to 100 pints of blood to survive.
- About 6.8 million people donate blood every year in the U.S.
- 38% of our population is eligible to donate, but less than 10% actually do.
- Donating blood is a simple, safe process. All you have to do is register, take a mini medical history test, donate, and then accept free refreshments like water, Gatorade, granola bars, etc.
- A single donation from a single patient can help more than one person.



LCMS- Stewardship-Ministry-Newsletter Article—January 2020

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Cor. 8:7).



January Birthdays

- 1 Jim Conway
- 2 Heavyn Berry
Devin Johnson
Katie Pontbriand
Anna Valley
- 3 Kaitlynn Erickson
Gary Peterson
- 4 Kevin Murdock
- 5 Michael Trulock
- 6 Jim Harris
- 7 Caren Erickson
Tracy Thone
- 11 Ryan Hendricks
Kathleen Muchka
Parker Ruesch
Cody Trudell
- 12 Rev. Matthew Ruesch
- 13 Amanda Sanicki
- 15 Eric Kinsella
- 16 Brett Swanson
- 17 Katrina St. Germain
- 18 Andy Rahm
Alexis Rochon
- 20 Cat Olson
Jon Olson
Donna Trudell
- 22 Conlan Cramer
Chelsea Neuens
Everett Olson

“Rejoice with those who Rejoice” -Romans 12:15

- 23 Barb Messer
- 24 Nora Robertson
- 25 Michael Mortl II
- 27 David Antonissen
Kelsey Koehler
- 29 Alex Brennan
- 30 Brenda Steinbeck

Anniversary Prayer

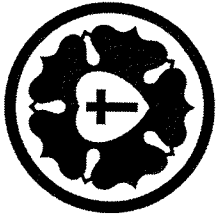
O Lord, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank you for another year of life together for those we mention before you. We ask you to keep them open to receive always more of your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

January Anniversaries



- 3 Gary and Marsha Swanson
- 12 Brent and Judy Walker
- 20 David and Kathleen Muchka
- 22 Sally and Terry Champeau
- 27 Andrew and Claire Valeski

If any dates have been published incorrectly or have been omitted, please contact the Church Office.



OUR REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2020

Church Office Hours:
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Pastor Ruesch's Office Hours:
 Monday-Wednesday 9:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.
 or by Appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Worship Services in bold print.</p> <p>Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Service. (Marked with an asterisk*)</p>						
5 <i>2nd S. after Christmas</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Bible Study & Sunday School	6 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 7:00 P.M. Divine Service	7 6:30 P.M. Board of Elders	8 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Music Practice	9 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	10 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	11
12 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Bible Study & Sunday School	13 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 1:00 P.M. Ladies' Guild	14 8:30 A.M. Circuit Pastors Meeting @ Zion-Amasa	15 10:00 A.M. Altar Guild 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Music Practice	16 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	17 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	18
19 <i>2nd S. after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Bible Study & Sunday School	20 6:30 P.M. Church Council	21	23 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Music Practice	23 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	24 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	25
26 <i>3rd S. after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Quarterly Voters' Meeting 6:00 P.M. Youth Group Meeting	27	28	29 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Music Practice	30 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	31 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	