

THE REDEEMER READER

JANUARY A+D 2023

VOLUME 100, ISSUE 1



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.ourredeemerkingsford.org
Facebook: /ourredeemerkingsford

Schedule of Services

Sundays:

Divine Service	9:00 A.M.
Fellowship	10:15 A.M.
Bible Study	10:30 A.M.

Wednesdays:

Midweek Divine Service	7:00 P.M.
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Our Redeemer is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a denomination of nearly 2 million members in the United States and Canada. Learn more about The LCMS by visiting its website at lcms.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/TheLCMS.

From the Pastor's Desk

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

- Matthew 25:34-40 (ESV)

With the new year, 2023, Our Redeemer now enters into its 100th year of Word & Sacrament ministry in Kingsford! (Our 100th anniversary will take place next year, in 2024.) I know many of you join with me in thanksgiving to God for how He has blessed us through this congregation.

Obviously, many of you already know that Our Redeemer holds a special place in the story of my family. Four generations of my own family have been members of this congregation where there have been baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, ordination and installation, and decades of forgiveness received and God's gifts given. I know many of you have a long personal history with our congregation as well.

And yet that idea of *family* is one that the Bible goes to great lengths to describe. It's an idea we've especially reflected upon the past year. God is our Father. We are His children. That makes us brothers and sisters. Moreover, as Jesus is the Son of the Father, He is our Brother. In Matthew's Gospel (in the text quoted above), He refers to His followers as His "brothers." And He says that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned, we do these things to Him. In other words, by showing care, compassion, and hospitality to each other as brothers and sisters, we do such things to Jesus Himself.

All of that goes to say: if you're part of Our Redeemer, you're part of a family. You're part of a family where we've each received God's Word of a Father's love and where Jesus Himself dwells among us and identifies Himself with each of us. When we love and care for one another, we love and care for Jesus.

How in 2023 can you love and care for Jesus by loving and caring for those who are your brothers and sisters in the family? God grant us grace and strength to show such care!

In Christ our Lord,

Pastor Ruesch



ALTAR GUILD NEEDS MORE MEMBERS, MEN AND WOMEN! If you are interested in helping keep the sanctuary beautiful, please contact Carol Thornton at (906) 282-8740. Orientation will be provided. Meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 10 AM, but attendance is not mandatory.

“HELPING HANDS” IS NOW “THE OUR REDEEMER LIFE TEAM!” We’ve combined Helping Hands and our “Health & Wellness Ministry” into a new ministry that is the local outreach of “Lutherans For Life.” This ministry seeks to meet the bodily needs of our neighbors—inside and outside our congregation—with the message that life is precious to God at every stage. **YOU CAN STILL PURCHASE GIVING BEAN PRODUCTS TO SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY!** Please consider our Giving Bean fundraiser. Giving Bean coffee can be accessed at the ORLC website under the “Ministries” tab by clicking “Life Team.”



OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE CHURCH

Funeral

Paul Luhtanen December 6, 2022

TADYCH'S/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 C. 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. **We no longer take Campbells soup labels as Campbells has discontinued its labels for education program.**

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Our Lutheran women's Missionary League began collecting used postage stamps in 1993 when The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod office in St. Louis, Missouri, ended this project. Our North Wisconsin District has worked with many different gentlemen over the years to sell our stamps. We are currently taking our stamps to a gentleman in Green Bay.

Our stamps were sold five different times in 1994 and the total amount sold to help support our missions was \$345.49. The year-to-date total now is \$13,897.66 Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Please continue to collect your stamps within your societies and encourage others from your church to join. Please share with them how to trim the stamps leaving a quarter inch around the stamp. The perforation on the stamp must be intact, if the perforation is missing the stamps cannot be sold.

What a blessing to have the opportunity to collect our stamps and help those in need. Please continue in this mission as we serve the Lord with gladness! In Christ, *Shirley H. & Mary S.*

Please place the stamps in the LWML MITE box!! Thank so much!



LWML
Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML-LADIES' GUILD

"Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Happy New Year 2023!!

LWML gals pray you all had a blessed wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus. With all the Advent Services, Sunday School Program, LWML Christmas Luncheon, Cloverton Concert, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Christmas Day we had many chances to experience the goodness of our Lord!

Prayers & wishes for a healthy happy New Year.

LWML was thrilled with the good response to our Annual Christmas Luncheon. This year 16 gathered at Holiday Kitchen on Dec 12 @ 11:30 for a wonderful meal. Our program consisted of a skit of 12 days of Christmas, carols, (even appreciated by other customers) BINGO & just good old-fashioned fun. Plan to join us next year. LOVE OFFERING was gathered for our local Salvation Army—\$275.00. Thanks for all for your generosity!!

At our Jan. 9th meeting @ 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we plan to remember our military, college, and shut-ins to remind them they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Members asked to come up with theme ideas for our Spring Banquet. Spring will be here before you know it (we hope & pray!) Put on your thinking caps.

Also, information is published in the LW Quarterly Winter 2022 issue with details for upcoming National LWML Convention in Milwaukee WI. Dates are June 22-25, 2023. Registration details, hotels, meals, speakers, activities are all announced. Milwaukee is probably the closest National will ever be for us so it would be wonderful if we could send a good delegation. Give it some serious thought. It's Awesome!

Love to have more ladies join us and enjoy all our activities!

Upcoming events:

Jan.9—1 p.m. 1st 2023 meeting—Happy new Year!

June 22-25 National LWML Conv. In Milwaukee WI

Serve the Lord with Gladness

God Bless,

Caren & LWML Gals.

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 a.m. Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

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



Seasonal Program Coordinator *Position Available from January - May, 2023*

Camp Luther is looking for dedicated, mature individuals to serve in a program coordinator role during the school year. This position involves working closely with our full-time staff team to coordinate and lead our retreat programs, as well as providing operational support for the ministry of camp. We're passionate about providing people in this role with the opportunity for leadership development, intentional ministry training, and personal growth. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals looking to gain leadership experience in a ministry setting.

Summer Staff and Junior Counselors *Applications are open!*

Are you ready to have a life changing summer/2 weeks? WE WANT YOU TO APPLY! Spend time this summer serving God, growing as a leader, and having lots of fun! Check out our website for more information!

Winter Blast *Weekend #1 - January 13-15 , 2023 or Weekend #2 - January 20-22 , 2023*

Looking for a weekend retreat for your Middle School and/or High School youth group? Look no further, we have just the retreat for you! The entire weekend is led by the Camp Luther staff to allow your leaders to focus on hanging out and building relationships with your students.

Camp Luther Cottages

Life is hectic with constant change and new information that leaves you wondering what is right and what is wrong. The anxiety and stress pile up. It isn't supposed to be this way. We get it. And we want to help. Book a cottage at Camp Luther and escape the noise of the world for a few days. Find peace, restore joy, and return home healthier and more equipped to handle the next change that comes your way.

Each of our 15 lakeside cottages features:

- Bathroom with shower
- Living Room
- Kitchen with stove, refrigerator, and small kitchen appliances
- Picnic Table
- Charcoal Grill
- 12' Rowboat
- Walk-Out Pier
- Access to Camp Luther's recreational equipment free of charge

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone, including Camp Luther. Your financial gifts are especially appreciated during this time.

**PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE AND
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES!**



Serving in God's House This Month

The 9:00 a.m. Divine Service is being live streamed on the Our Redeemer Facebook page www.facebook.com/ourredeemerkingsford.

A link to the bulletin will be available as well.

January 1

9:00 am Elders: Jason L. & Damian T.
Ushers: Michael K. & Volunteer
Organist: Don H.
Acolyte: Pearl K.

January 8

9:00 am Elders: Jason L. & Ed T.
Ushers: Volunteers
Organist: Don H.
Acolyte: Jaidyn L.

January 15

9:00 am Elders: Jim R. & Ed T.
Ushers: Volunteers
Organist: Marian V.
Acolyte: Chloe L.

January 22

7:00 pm Elders: Jason L. & Ed T.
Ushers: Volunteers
Digital Music
Acolyte: Aubrey M.

January 29

9:00 am Elders: Jeremy P. & Jim R.
Ushers: Volunteers
Digital Music
Acolyte: Riley P.

Altar Guild for January:

Sue R. & Debbie S.

Digital Music

January 4

Elder: Damian T.

January 11

Elder: Gary P.

January 18

Elder: Damian T.

January 25

Elder: Gary P.

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

Wednesday, November 30 (7:00 PM)	22
Sunday, December 4 (9:00 AM)	86
Wednesday, December 7 (7:00 PM)	30
Sunday, December 11 (9:00 AM)	79
Wednesday, December 14 (7:00 PM)	Cancelled
Sunday, December 18 (9:00 AM)	93
Saturday, December 24 (7:00 PM)	80
Saturday, December 24 (11:00 PM)	14
Sunday, December 25 (9:00 AM)	63

PROTECTING EACH OTHER DURING COVID-19

As we return to worship services, we all need to do our part to safeguard our neighbors. It is who we are as Christians.

When attending service, please plan on doing the following:

- ☐ Stay home if you have ANY of these symptoms:
 - o A fever
 - o Chills
 - o A dry cough
 - o Shortness of breath
 - o Sore throat
 - o New loss of taste &/or smell

☐ Masks are available on the Welcome Kiosk as well as hand sanitizer for anyone who wishes to use them.

Health and Wellness Ministry

January

The Facts About Fentanyl

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S.

There are two types of fentanyl: pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Both are considered synthetic opioids. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain, especially after surgery and for advanced-stage cancer.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin 100 times stronger than morphine. However, most recent cases of fentanyl-related overdose are linked to illicitly manufactured fentanyl, which is distributed through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect. It is often added to other drugs because of its extreme potency, which makes drugs cheaper, more powerful, more addictive, and more dangerous.

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) is available on the drug market in different forms, including liquid and powder. Powdered fentanyl looks just like many other drugs. It is commonly mixed with drugs like heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine and made into pills that are made to resemble other prescription opioids. Fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous, and many people may be unaware that their drugs are laced with fentanyl.

In its liquid form, IMF can be found in nasal sprays, eye drops, and dropped onto paper or small candies. Illicit drugs do not come with an ingredient list. Many contain deadly doses of fentanyl

STREET NAMES FOR IMF INCLUDE:

- Apache
- Dance Fever
- Friend
- Goodfellas
- Jackpot
- Murder 8
- Tango & Cash 1

Fentanyl and Overdose

Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths.¹ Even in small doses, it can be deadly. Over 150 people die every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Drugs may contain deadly levels of fentanyl, and you wouldn't be able to see it, taste it, or smell it. It is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl unless you test your drugs with fentanyl test strips. Test strips are inexpensive and typically give results within 5 minutes, which can be the difference between life or death. Even if the test is negative, take caution as test strips might not detect more potent fentanyl-like drugs, like carfentanil.

Signs of overdose Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose can save a life. Here are some things to look for:

- Small, constricted "pinpoint pupils"
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

What to do if you think someone is overdosing

It may be hard to tell whether a person is high or experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, treat it like an overdose—you could save a life.

1. Call 911 Immediately.*
2. Administer naloxone, if available.**
3. Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
4. Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.
5. Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives.

*Most states have laws that may protect a person who is overdosing or the person who called for help from legal trouble.

** Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose and save lives. It is available in all 50 states and can be purchased from a local pharmacy without a prescription in most states.



LCMS- Stewardship-Ministry-Newsletter Article—JANUARY

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.



January Birthdays

- 1 Jim C.
James D.
- 2 Heavyn B.
Devin J.
Katie P.
- 3 Kaitlynn E.
Gary P.
- 4 Kevin M.
- 5 Michael T.
- 6 Jim H.
- 7 Caren E.
Tracy T.
- 9 Arden S.
- 11 Kathleen M.
Cody T.
- 12 Eric L.
Rev. Matthew R.
- 13 Amanda S.
Sydney S.
- 16 Brett S.
- 17 Hayden M.
- 18 Shirley M.
- 19 Eddie S.
- 20 Bradley H.
Cat O.
Jon O.
Donna T.
- 22 Conlan C.
Chelsea N.
Everett O.
- 23 Barb M.

“Rejoice with those who Rejoice”

-Romans 12:

- 24 Nora R.
- 25 Michael M. II
- 27 David A.
Kelsey K.
- 30 Ezra M.

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 S.
- 15 David & Kim M.
- 20 David and Kathleen M.
- 22 Sally and Terry C.

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



JANUARY 2023

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Circumcision and Name of Jesus</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship	2 6:30 P.M. Board of Elders	3	4 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	5 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Church Council	6 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	7 10:00 A.M. Dorothy Johnson Funeral
8 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Sunday School, Bible Study, & Youth Group	9 1:00 P.M. Ladies' Guild	10	11 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	12 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	13 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	14 10:00 A.M. New Members Class
15 <i>2nd S. after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Sunday School, Bible Study, & Youth Group	16 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	17	18 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	19 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	20 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	21 10:00 A.M. New Members Class
22 <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 10:30 A.M. Sunday School & Youth Group	23	24	25 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	26 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	27 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	28 10:00 A.M. New Members Class
29 <i>4th S. after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Sunday School, Bible Study, & Youth Group	30	31	<p>Worship Services in bold print.</p> <p>Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Service. (Marked with an asterisk*)</p>			

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
420 West Breitung Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802



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Here to Serve!