

THE REDEEMER READER

FEBRUARY A+D 2023

VOLUME 100, ISSUE 2



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

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, [Jesus] set his face to go to Jerusalem."
- Luke 9:51 (ESV)

After years of relatively staying in one place and not going to a whole variety of places, I've been through years filled with a *lot* of travel. It came with the territory of being a missionary. During our fundraising periods, we would travel all over the United States to visit various churches and share the work we were doing. I've been blessed to preach in pulpits all throughout the Missouri Synod and experience what life looks like as the Church in different locations. Naturally, our travels included foreign countries like the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico, where we served for three years.

The Church travels...or more appropriately, *journeys*...as well. The season of Lent is a sort of journey for us with Jesus Christ to His cross. While we as the Church always fix our eyes on Jesus our crucified Lord, Lent affords us the opportunity to ponder His work more deeply.

However the true journey with Christ to His cross isn't found in attending Lenten services, giving things up for the seasons, or following special disciplines. It's found in our Baptism.

St. Paul reminds us that in our Baptism, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4, ESV) Whereas Lent is that sort of "traveling" with Jesus, the truth is that the journey has already been made. When Jesus went to His cross, He took you with Him by means of your Baptism. When He was buried in His tomb, you and your sin were buried with Him...by means of your Baptism. When He rose in victory on Easter morning, you rose victorious with Him...by means of your Baptism.

One of the well-known hymns of Holy Week is the 19th c. African American spiritual "Were You There." The hymn asks that question over and over: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"..."Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?"..."Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?"..."Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?" In the water of Holy Baptism, the answer is a resounding, "YES! I WAS THERE!"

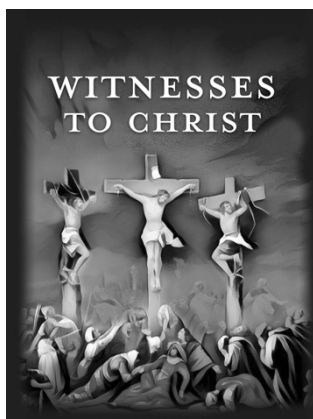
Some of you have traveled in your lifetime...others of you have "stuck close to home." Most of us are somewhere in the middle. But thanks be to God, in Holy Baptism, the greatest journey of our lifetimes took place already 2000 years ago when our Lord Jesus took us with Himself to Jerusalem to lay down His life for all of our sins, was buried with us in the tomb, and rose triumphant from death to live forever.

Join us during Lent beginning February 22nd as we in repentance return to our Baptism and our journey with Christ. Supper each Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. Service follows at 7:00 P.M!

In Christ our Lord,

Pastor Ruesch

Pastor Ruesch



Midweek Lenten Suppers & Services

The Holy Season of Lent is already upon us and—as is our custom at Our Redeemer—we will mark the season with a supper every Wednesday evening, followed by a Lenten service. Our theme this year is “Witnesses to Christ” and will look at our Lord’s passion and death through the eyes of those who were there for the events of Jesus’ ministry, suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Supper will be served at 6:00 P.M. and Service will follow at 7:00 P.M.

Weds., Feb. 22nd – Ash Wednesday Divine Service – “John the Baptist”

Weds., Mar. 1st – Midweek Lenten Service – “Mary, the Sister of Lazarus and Martha”

Weds., Mar. 8th – Midweek Lenten Service – “Malchus”

Weds., Mar. 15th – Midweek Lenten Service – “Peter”

Weds., Mar. 22nd – Midweek Lenten Service – “Barabbas”

Weds., Mar. 29th – Midweek Lenten Service – “Pontius Pilate”

Council Chairman Dave McFarland

Hello, my name is David McFarland and I’m your new Council Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank Skip Schoenborn for his 6 years of service as Chairman and for his continuing service in the church.

Who am I? Two ½ years ago my family and I moved to Kingsford from Jackson, Michigan. God has blessed me with a wonderful family: my wife Kim of 23 years, my sons Josh (21), Logan (19), Hayden (16) and daughter Katie (9). Kim, my wife and myself have been active many years at our previous church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, LCMS, serving many roles but mostly involving the Youth Ministry. I truly have been blessed with more than I deserve, therefore I need to serve God to the best of my abilities and what better way to serve than here at Our Redeemer Church.

I do have a request of you, to include myself and the Church Council in your prayers. I am not perfect (just ask my wife), but I have found the more I follow God and not myself the better things turn out. 2023 will be an exciting year but only through prayer and following Scripture can we expect to receive God’s blessing for the church and ourselves and in turn do God’s work. Also, Romans 12 is a good reminder of what is expected of a church.

I look forward to working with you and thank you for your prayers and support.

Dave McFarland

Council Chairman

Email: damkrm@hotmail.com

OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE CHURCH

Baptisms

Camila Figueroa	January 1, 2023
Lucia Figueroa (Recognition)	January 1, 2023
Amelia Mortl	January 15, 2023

Funeral

Dorothy Johnson	January 7, 2023
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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 Valentine's Day!!!

At our January 9th meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we have purchased over 20 Valentine greeting cards for our military, college, and shut-ins, which will be addressed and mailed in time for Valentine's Day. We want to remind them that they are in our thoughts and prayers!

Bible Study was led by Barb C. titled Dilemmas and Decisions.

We have welcomed 2 ladies into our group and would love to have more members. Join in and enjoy all of our activities and mission work.

Information is published in the LWML Quarterly Winter 2022 issue with details for upcoming NATIONAL LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Dates are June 22-25, 2023. All registration details are announced. Milwaukee is probably the closest National Convention that 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! Explore Milwaukee! It's not just cheese, beer, and bratwurst! Make plans to explore Milwaukee's cultural, historical and culinary highlights.

Please take time to browse our selection of greeting cards and 2023-2024 pocket calendars in Narthex. All are reasonably priced and profits help fund our missions near and far!

Upcoming events:

Feb. 13, 2023, meeting

June 22-25, National Convention in Milwaukee, WI

Serve the Lord with Gladness

God Bless,

Caren and 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.



Junior Counselors *Deadline is February 1st, 2023.* There are only a couple weeks left to turn in your Junior Counselor application! We currently have 59 applicants BUT ONLY 12 ARE BOYS! We need more male Junior Counselors to help assist our summer programming. Please share this with every 10-12 grade male that you know! Follow the link for more information.

Summer Staff *Deadline February 8th, 2023.* Are you ready to have a life changing summer?

WE WANT YOU TO APPLY! Spend time this summer serving God, growing as a leader, and having lots of fun! There is still time to apply for Summer Staff 2023

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.



Youth Announcement

This summer LCMS Michigan District will be hosting a High School Youth Gathering at Mission Point resort on Mackinac Island. The theme is Anchored in Hope, Romans 5:1-8

When: June 25-28

Who can attend: current 8th graders – 12th grade

There will be Christian speakers and entertainers at the event including Bryan Osborne from Answers in Genesis, Flame, 321 Improv and many more.

Cost, it's \$395 per attendee which includes 3-night stay at Mission Point Resort, 7 meals, ferry round trip, luggage transfer and a Gathering T-shirt.

We will continue to fundraise for this event: bottle recycle collection, hosting coffee the 1st and 2nd Sunday of the month and other fundraisers to come. You may also sponsor a teen to attend the event as well.

For more information contact Dave McFarland, email: damkrm@hotmail.com. Link to the High School Youth Gathering is

<https://michigandistrict.org/event/senior-high-youth-gathering-2023/>

Thank you for your support!

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.

February 5

9:00 am Elders: Jason L. & Ed T.
Ushers: Michael K. & Volunteer
Digital Music
Acolyte: Jocelyn T.

February 12

9:00 am Elders: Jason L. & Ed T.
Ushers: Volunteers
Digital Music
Acolyte: Logan F.

February 19

9:00 am Elders: Gary P. & Jim R.
Ushers: Michael K. & Volunteer
Organist: Marian V.
Acolyte: Aiden L.

February 26

7:00 pm Elders: Jeremy P. & Jim R.
Ushers: Volunteers
Digital Music
Acolyte: Nora R.

Altar Guild for February:

Cindy K. & Carol L.



Wednesday Divine Service 7:00 P.M.

Digital Music

February 1

Elder: Damian T.

February 8

Elder: Gary P.

February 15

Elder: Damian T.

February 22 Ash Wednesday

Elder: Damian T.

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

Sunday, January 1 (9:00 AM)	75
Wednesday, January 4 (7:00 PM)	8
Sunday, January 8 (9:00 AM)	98
Wednesday, January 11 (7:00 PM)	9
Sunday, January 15 (9:00 AM)	104
Wednesday, January 18 (7:00 PM)	14
Sunday, January 22 (9:00 AM)	84

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.

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life



Life Newsbytes

Abortion pills took the lives of nearly **500,000 preborn babies in 2020**, while sales from the deadly pill regimen made up an astounding **53% of nationally reported abortion numbers**, according to updated data published by Guttmacher Institute researchers. The report entitled, “Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States, 2020,” also found that between 2017 and 2020, the share of “medication abortions” increased for all facility types. Numbers published by the FDA through June of 2021 reveal that the abortion pill has ended the lives of nearly five million preborn human beings since its approval in 2000 ... Abortion reporting data is not required by federal law; therefore, the CDC relies solely on data from the states that individually require abortion reporting. Guttmacher gathers information differently, relying on responses to surveys it sends to abortionists; those overall numbers tend to be more comprehensive. “There were 492,210 medication abortions in 2020, a 45% increase from 2017,” Guttmacher Institute researchers wrote in a report published on November 20. “Medication abortion accounted for the majority of all abortions in 2020 (53%), compared to 39% in 2017,” noted authors Rachel K. Jones, Marielle Kirstein, and Jesse Philbin ... Guttmacher’s percent of national abortion pill numbers was slightly higher than what was reported by the CDC. (*Live Action News*, 11/23/22; *CLR LifeWire*, 12/8/22)

Speaking up For Life

“Friend of Jesus, no matter what painful or wonderful endings you marked in the past year, please watch for the early signs of new beginnings. Seize them as opportunities for you and God to develop together. Think about what the Bible teaches about life, appreciate God’s love for you, gather up bits and pieces of experience, and put them in a file named ‘Lessons Learned.’ Then keep it handy.” *Jason Nelson, Time of Grace*

“[E]very human life, no matter the size, level of development, environment, or degree of dependency, is indispensable in fulfilling God’s plans.” *Lynette Auch, former President of Lutherans For Life*

“You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God’s handcrafted gift to the world.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life*

“The Lord called all things into being, from the greatest to the least, with His mighty mere Word. But He formed the human bodies with His own fingers and His very breath. He lovingly, intimately, and meticulously knits us together in our mothers’ wombs.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life*

**Since 1973: 63,459,781
abortions in America**

Source: www.lifenews.com/2022/01/07/63459781-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973



LCMS- Stewardship-Ministry-Newsletter Article—FEBRUARY

Don't Replace "And" with "Or"

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money but about our whole lives.

God gives us everything we have and enjoy, as Luther's Small Catechism explains in the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. First, we each confess that God "has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses" (SC II). Then, we confess that He gives us material things.

The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus, this quite helpful trinity — which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church — turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions.

The right question is: Can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasure to our families, our society, our church, and our local congregations.

And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood, and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents, and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God.

Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents, and treasure together.



February Birthdays

- 1 Wyatt H.
Vic W.
- 2 Brody G.
- 4 Joe H.
Owen L.
- 5 Jennifer W.
- 6 Gina H.
Katie M.
- 7 Ed W.
- 8 Lachlan F.
William P. II
- 9 Tami O.
- 12 Sullivan M.
- 13 Courtney W.
- 14 Jeff S.
- 16 Toni W.
- 17 Carol S.
- 18 Bob P.
Kyle T.
Cindy W.
- 19 Layla M.
Tom W
- 21 Bev H.
- 23 Eliza O.
- 25 Sharon T.
- 27 Rob K.
- 28 Keegan C.

"Rejoice with those who Rejoice"

-Romans 12:

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.

February Anniversaries



- 1 Raymond & Vic W.
- 14 Curtis & Tracy V.
- 17 Robert & Sharon T.
- 25 Robert & Carol G.
Eric & Ashley L.

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





FEBRUARY 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	2 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	3 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	4
5 <i>5th 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	6 6:30 P.M. Board of Elders	7	8 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	9 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	10 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	11
12 <i>6th 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	13 1:00 P.M. Ladies' Guild	14	15 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	16 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	17 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	18
19 <i>The Transfiguration 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	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 5:30 P.M. Confirmation 5:30 P.M. Gsus Singers 6:00 P.M. Lenten Supper 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*	23 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	24 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	25
26 <i>1st S. in Lent</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 10:30 A.M. Sunday School, Bible Study, & Youth Group	27	28	Worship Services in bold print. Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Service. (Marked with an asterisk*)			

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



Ministry Staff

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Here to Serve!