

THE REDEEMER READER

JUNE A+D 2023

VOLUME 100, ISSUE 6



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.ourredeemerkingsford.org
Facebook: /ourredeemerkingsford

Schedule of Services

Sundays:

Fellowship	8:30 A.M.
Divine Service	9:00 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

"If you could see how many knives, darts, and arrows are every moment aimed at you [Ephesians 6:16], you would be glad to come to the Sacrament as often as possible."

- Luther's Large Catechism, V, 82

The above quote from Martin Luther's Large Catechism is one of my favorites...and one that I'm quite certain I've used in this newsletter article before to urge our church family toward being present at the Lord's Table.

This month, I want to engage you as a congregation to consider this truth about Holy Communion in a particular context. Over my nearly 18 years of ministry, I've become increasingly disenfranchised about the state of youth confirmation in the Lutheran Church at-large and more recently in our congregation specifically. I've long had the practice of instructing children in 5th and 6th grade as opposed to the traditional 7th and 8th grade with the hope of getting the children to the communion rail before they are fully in the "throes of puberty." It seems plain to us all that Satan's advances are uniquely squared against young people as their respective hormone levels increase...as they engage the world in new ways...and as they mature sexually. The downside to doing confirmation at this age is that certain discussions that are more mature in nature regarding marriage, Biblical sexuality, abortion, and other issues that are important to our Christian confession of faith are very difficult with our younger members.

The idea that a child isn't ready for the Sacrament until they reach a sort of "magic age"...be that 14 or 12 or whatever...is a recent convention in terms of church history. Martin Luther says in the Small Catechism, "That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" (VI, 4) He doesn't attach an age to it and neither should we.

The Board of Elders and I have discussed in the past and will be discussing over the summer the possibility of changes to our confirmation program with the potential of introducing "First Communion" to our congregation. Rather than the pastor approaching families when they reach the appropriate age for a confirmation class, it would be upon the family to approach the pastor when they believe their child is ready for preparation for the Sacrament. This would better ensure family involvement and continued reception of the Lord's Supper, rather than the all-too-familiar sad scenario of confirmation being treated like "graduation from church" and children and families disappearing from church as soon as their picture goes up on our display board.

We would still provide a path toward confirmation and membership in the congregation...though one that would involve both youth *and* adults seeking membership in the church. Rather than it being focused on completing a set amount of classes, it would be focused on the individual's readiness to confess the faith for his or herself. More and more LCMS churches have been going this route out of providing First Communion before confirmation out of an awareness that our children are uniquely under assault by the devil. And as Luther reminds us, the Body and Blood of Jesus are precisely what are given to us as our defense.

I'd like feedback from everyone...in particular, those who are parents of children of "confirmation age" and younger. This merits discussion and I look forward to those taking place at our Board of Elders and among all those who are curious, interested, or concerned.

In Christ our Lord,

Pastor Ruesch

Pastor Ruesch

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION LUNCHEON: On June 11th following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Service we will be having a “Celebration of Service” Luncheon. LWML and Our Redeemer Congregation want to honor and thank all the workers and volunteers who make our church run so efficiently! **Everyone is invited...especially our volunteers!** You don’t need to bring anything, but we do ask you to

sign-up on the table in the narthex if you plan to attend so we can get an accurate count for food.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED toward our Youth Group’s trip to the Michigan District Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island later this month! We are so grateful for your generosity and for giving our youth the chance to be fed by God’s Word alongside youth from all over the state.



PASTOR RUESCH WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO PARENTS of “confirmation age” children and younger about the potential of offering “First Communion” at Our Redeemer. A First Communion program would involve an initial meeting between Pastor and the parents, followed by a 4-5 week period of instruction and discussion between the pastor and the family. Confirmation instruction would still be offered at an older age when the parents, child, and Pastor believe the child is ready for discussion of the Christian faith at a deeper

level. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor at pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org or (906) 396-7401.

OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE CHURCH

Junior Confirmation

Logan Faucett	May 7, 2023
Aiden Lindow	May 7, 2023
Nora Robertson	May 7, 2023
Jeremiah Wilson	May 7, 2023

Funeral

Carol Phelps	May 27, 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-LADIES' GUILD

"Serve the Lord with Gladness"

A hearty hearty thank you to all who made our annual LWML Spring Banquet a success!

Where Friends Gather was an exciting fun theme and I KNOW our BINGO (get to know you) was a big hit! Since I was busy doing other things, I didn't get to play myself but sure initiated lots of BINGO cards 'cuz I was wearing orange!

Our meal was delicious and we sincerely thank our caterer Patti and wonderful servers; Jim R., Larry K., Pastor Tom., Scott W., & Jim S. Missed Rob but so glad he is feeling better. Take care. The music by Crystal H. & Dawn K. was wonderful. Salvation Army gals, Tara & Jennifer did awesome telling us of all the good they do in our community. Also, thanks to all who donated items for their pantry etc.

Thanks to Heather for filling in for DDA (who were unable to attend)—telling all about her new services of "The Cure"—assisting & mentoring teens who can benefit from counseling etc. God Bless—Best wishes on your venture!!

Now our next biggie is the Celebration of Volunteers on June 11. Thanks to all who use their talents and services to make our church a better place physically. Also special thanks to Don H. for his dedicated faithful service as organist. 38 years I hear?? Plan to attend the potluck after church on June 11. See you there!

Upcoming events:

June 22-24, 2023, National Convention in Milwaukee, WI
Resume meetings on Sept. 11 @ 1 pm.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

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.

Join us this summer! Camp Luther summer youth camps provide an incredible, faith-filled experience for campers from Kindergarten all the way through High School. It's our goal that everyone who attends Camp Luther is encouraged and strengthened in their faith through authentic community, outstanding staff, experiential activities, and intentional faith building. Come experience the power of camp this summer!

General Volunteering Maybe you'll paint, or perhaps help in the kitchen. We may need help in the office, or clearing trails, The volunteer projects in the summer vary, but they are all needed and you can know you are making a difference! **Have an RV?** Camp Luther offers 3 RV sites that include water and 30 Amp power connection. **No RV: No problem!** Stay in Volunteer Village, which consists of rustic cabins. Get more information and apply to be a general summer volunteer at campluther.com/volunteer.

Guest Medics We need medical professionals to work with our Healthcare Program Coordinator this summer in caring for the medical needs and safety of campers, staff, and guests. Qualified medical professionals include (but not limited to) licensed physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, practical nurses, certified trainers, EMT and paramedics. Guest Medics typically serve Sunday-Sunday, and are provided with housing in the Retreat Center and meals for themselves and their immediate family members. Guest Medics are still needed for the following weeks: June 18-25 & August 13-18. Contact Kardia at Kardia@campluther.com if you're interested.

Golf Classic June 16th, 2023

Join us this summer for the 19th annual Golf Classic! All proceeds from this event go to our Every Kid to Camp program. This amazing program covers registration cost for any first-time camper at Camp Luther. We love being able to provide this opportunity for all kids, but we can't do it without your help! Register today to help send more kids to camp!

Support our Every Kid to Camp Program

Each year we host a Golf Classic to raise funds for our Every Kid to Camp Program which offers a week of summer camp to any first-time camper at **no cost to them!** Click on the Picture to Learn more about how to support this event.

Camp Gift Certificates

Good for the Canteen, a Summer Camp, or a Cottage Rental!
Available in any amount. Just tell us how many you would like.
Please call Camp at 715-546-3647. We can have your gift certificate out in a day or two.

Wishlist

There is always a need for items on our Wishlist! These supplies could range from program items for new games at camp to new tools for our volunteers to use on projects.



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.

June 4

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

June 11

9:00 am Elders: Gary P. & Jim R.
Ushers: Volunteers
Digital Music

June 18

9:00 am Elders: Jim R. & Jeremy P.
Ushers: Volunteers
Organist: Marian V.

June 25

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

Wednesday Divine Service 7:00 P.M.
Digital Music

June 7

Elder: Ed T.

June 14

Elder: Jim R.

June 21

Elder: Jason L.

June 28

Elder: Gary P.

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

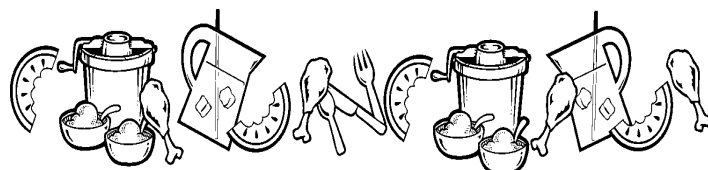
Sunday, April 30 (9:00 AM)	74
Wednesday, May 3 (7:00 PM)	14
Sunday, May 7 (9:00 AM)	132
Wednesday, May 10 (7:00 PM)	10
Sunday, May 14 (9:00 AM)	87
Wednesday, May 17 (7:00 PM)	15
Sunday, May 21 (9:00 AM)	108

Dana Bey & Maridol Bey

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



MOVING AHEAD!

by Pastor Michael Salemink



Lutherans
For Life

After Dobbs, there is celebration and rejoicing. The Supreme Court vacated *Roe v. Wade*'s mandatory abortion access framework. Gospel-motivated voices For Life have prevailed with God's truth and Christ's love. The population is paying attention to the sanctity of life. Abortions are decreasing in several jurisdictions and ceasing entirely in some states.

After Dobbs, abortions will continue. Certain locations are doubling down and expanding funding and facilities for it. Women and men still experience surprise pregnancies. "Pill" or "medication" abortion chemicals are becoming available online, across borders, and at neighborhood pharmacies with minimal supervision, if any.

After Dobbs, misinformation is multiplying. Preserving women's lives during pregnancy complications rarely, if ever, requires abortion. New restrictions do not affect care for miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. Science does not classify embryos as parasites and has no dispute about when human life begins. Scripture does not approve of or allow for abortions. Christians delight to assist and support after childbirth. And pregnancy resource centers do not mislead or manipulate.

After Dobbs, dangerous measures and mindsets remain. Popular rhetoric is pushing acceptance of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Mass media and universities are undermining biblical sexuality and biological gender. Genetic engineering research and procedures produce embryos for mutilation. In vitro fertilization and surrogacy receive widespread praise without regulations or reflections upon children's welfare. Intrauterine devices and hormonal contraceptives can end lives before implantation.

After Dobbs, neighbors need healing. Hearts and bodies have been broken by the abortion of their own children. Many secretly suffer guilt and silently struggle with grief. Grace and forgiveness cherish their lives as precious as the ones that were lost.

After Dobbs, our message and ministry matter more than ever. The scabs have come off, and the time has arrived for diagnosis and remedy, relief and prevention. The land is listening, so let us speak truth with courage. The world is watching, so let us show love and compassion. Abortion has only ever represented a symptom. The sickness has always consisted of the deeper reality of sin. So, law never embodied the finish line or the prize. Our Savior's victory invites us to settle for nothing less than sharing life, abundant and everlasting, with each human being and receiving them all as gift and privilege.

Let's press ahead with renewed enthusiasm!



LCMS- Stewardship-Ministry-Newsletter Article—JUNE

What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



June Birthdays

- 1 Casey A.
Bradley H.
- 2 Sally G.
Todd L.
- 3 Eli S.
- 4 Lilith M.
- 5 Cynthia K.
Heather R.
- 6 Laurence M.
Charlie S.
- 8 Myles M.
- 9 Don H.
Lori L.
- 10 Candy S.
- 11 Maridol B.
Liz R.
- 12 Kim B.
Stephanie B.
Aliyah G.
Mike W.
- 13 Julie M.
David M.
- 16 William P.
Olivia T.
- 17 Jennifer D.
- 19 Tyler B.
Ronda J.
Eric R.
- 20 Steven K.
Shelly T.
Nancy W.
- 21 Allyn N.
Riley P.
Tracy V.

"Rejoice with those who Rejoice"

-Romans 12:

- 23 Maxwell P.
Natalie P.
- 25 David W.
- 26 Sebastian T.
- 28 Ely M.
- 29 Chris D.
- 30 Chloe H.

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.



June Anniversaries

- 5 Joe & Chelsea H.
- 6 Carolyn & Mike M.
- 8 Gilbert & Diane K.
- 12 Rodney & Barbara H.
Don & Roxanne M.
- 16 David & Kathy P.
- 17 Paul & Kate M.
- 18 Robert & Jessica G.
Ed & Carol T.
- 19 David & Sue P.
- 20 Bradley & Hannah L.
- 21 John & Carole E.
Mark & Laura M.
- 23 Mike & Lynn C.
- 25 Casey & Casey A.
- 28 David & Sharon A.
- 30 David & Heather S.

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



JUNE 2023

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

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>				<p>1 10:00 A.M. Bible Study</p>	<p>2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 <i>The Holy Trinity</i> 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:15 A.M. Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>5 6:30 P.M. Board of Elders</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 5:30 Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*</p>	<p>8 10:00 A.M. Bible Study</p>	<p>9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 <i>2nd S. after Pentecost</i> 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:30 A.M. Volunteer Celebration Luncheon</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 5:30 Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*</p>	<p>15 10:00 A.M. Bible Study</p>	<p>16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p>17 7:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study</p>
<p>18 <i>3rd S. after Pentecost</i> 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:30 A.M. Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 5:30 Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 <i>4th S. after Pentecost</i> 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:30 A.M. Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 5:30 Gsus Singers 7:00 P.M. Divine Service*</p>	<p>29 10:00 A.M. Bible Study</p>	<p>30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	
<p>Pastor Ruesch on Vacation</p>		<p>Youth Group at MI District Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island</p>		<p>Pastor Ruesch on Vacation</p>		
		<p>Pastor at Continuing Ed. Class in Shawano, WI</p>				

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



Ministry Staff

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Hours: Tues., Weds., Thurs. 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Here to Serve!