

# THE REDEEMER READER

AUGUST A+D 2023

VOLUME 100, ISSUE 8



## OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

[www.ourredeemerkingsford.org](http://www.ourredeemerkingsford.org)  
Facebook: /ourredeemerkingsford

### Sunday Schedule:

Fellowship	8:30 A.M.
Divine Service	9:00 A.M.
Bible Study	10:30 A.M.

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](http://lcms.org) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/TheLCMS](https://facebook.com/TheLCMS).

## From the Pastor's Desk

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Our Redeemer will embark on its 100<sup>th</sup> year of existence here in Kingsford as a place where God's gifts in Jesus Christ are freely given. This will culminate with our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the same date next year.

We're looking at special ways to commemorate this event over the next year. We've commissioned a painting from artist Ed Riojas out of Grand Rapids that will hang above our altar. Debbie Sleik and I had the chance to speak with Ed on a Zoom conference recently and he anticipates having the painting completed and delivered to us by early summer of next year. If you want to check out some of Ed's other work, you can search for his professional page on Facebook ("Edward Riojas – Artist") or visit his website at [www.edriojasartist.com](http://www.edriojasartist.com).

Plans are also underway for a special 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary worship service at some point in August 2024. We hope to invite former pastors and their families, our fellow circuit congregations, our district president, and—of course—our community to join us in celebration. (I've already spoken to my brother-in-law about helping me smoke a bunch of ribs for the meal!)

When you add in the renovations that are happening around the church building, it's an exciting time here at Our Redeemer. Yet we do well in the middle of all this excitement to remember that the "Church" that endures forever isn't a building or an organization. The "Church," properly speaking, is the saints who are washed in the blood of Christ. Or as Dr. Luther said, "For, thank God, [today] a child seven years old knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd." (Smalcald Articles XII, 2)

There will come a time when Our Redeemer will no longer exist as a building or congregation. We pray that God in His mercy would allow us to continue His work here in Kingsford another 100 years! But what will last forever is the Word of God and those who believe in its promises found in Christ. Thanks be to God we will always have that!

If you have thoughts or ideas on how we can further celebrate 100 years of God's grace here in Kingsford, let me know!

In Christ our Lord,

*Pastor Ruesch*

Pastor Ruesch





**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](mailto:pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org) or (906) 396-7401.

**BUILDING FUND UPDATE:** Thank you to Jeff Swanson and his boys for the labor donated in installing the vinyl plank flooring in the rest of the narthex and in the three office spaces. It looks fantastic! Thank you also to Tony Caduto for putting a fresh coat of paint in the secretary’s office...to all those who helped with carpet tear-out and moving furniture in order for the flooring to be done...and also to Mark Mortl, Roger Osterberg, and all who have helped them with landscaping work outside around the Educational Unit. We are blessed to have so many talented and giving individuals donating their time to these projects!

In early August, work will begin on replacing our old furnaces and on renovating our four bathrooms. We’ve been blessed over the past few months with generous memorials and building fund donations. A lot of work remains needed, especially on our windows, which is about a \$150,000.00 job to replace all the original 55-year old windows that remain in the building.

Your gifts to our building fund remain a necessary and vital part of our going forward for the “next 100 years” here at Our Redeemer. God has been incredibly gracious to us and He has filled a lot of people with a lot of love for what He does here in our congregation!

## OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE CHURCH

### Baptism

Wilson Sotka

July 9, 2023

### **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"***

*"Celebrate the Lord of Nations."* Psalm 33:12-13 was the theme for the 2023 LWML 40<sup>th</sup> Convention in Milwaukee, WI and it was packed with exciting events every day! I was able to attend the convention with my mom, we both were first time attenders and were both inspired! Three people even rode bikes from Michigan to the convention.

The opening service was so amazing and to hear 4,000 voices singing praise to our Lord was breathtaking. We experienced awesome Bible Classes, Servant Event, inspiring Keynote Speakers, music, music and more music!

It was so wonderful to hear from the organizations that our mites go to and mind blowing to hear the stories of the difference our mites make—every penny counts and is put to good use.

Everyone is encouraged to attend our Sept. meeting to hear more.

Sue Patton

Upcoming events:

Resume meetings on Sept. 11 @ 1 pm.



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Our Redeemer Children, Youth and Family Ministries

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- 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.

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VISIT [WWW.CAMPLUTHER.COM](http://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 a 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](http://campluther.com/volunteer).

**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](http://www.facebook.com/ourredeemerkingsford).

A link to the bulletin will be available as well.

**August 6**

**9:00 am Elder:** Jim R.  
**Ushers:** Volunteers  
**Digital Music**

**August 13**

**9:00 am Elder:** Gary P.  
**Ushers:** Volunteers  
**Digital Music**

**August 20**

**9:00 am Elder:** Dana B.  
**Ushers:** Volunteers  
**Organist:** Marian V.

**August 27**

**9:00 am Elder:** Jeremey P.  
**Ushers:** Volunteers  
**Digital Music**

**Altar Guild**

**Sue R. & Debbie S.**

**ATTENDANCE TOTALS**

Sunday, July 2 (9:00 AM)	76
Sunday, July 9 (9:00 AM)	116
Sunday, July 16 (9:00 AM)	67
Sunday, July 23 (9:00 AM)	85

**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

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



[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



### **Life Newsbytes**

**One year after the Dobbs decision, new polling [from Tarrance Group] reveals that Americans overwhelmingly agree with pro-life protections for unborn babies and mothers and reject abortion extremism ...**

While much of the coverage on the issue of abortion in the year since the Dobbs decision portrays an America deeply divided, this survey shows that a supermajority (70% or above) of voters agree on a few key areas surrounding the issue ... Three-fourths of all voters are opposed to abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy ... 77% support at least some prohibition to abortion, with exceptions for the life of the mother, rape, and incest. Only 15% “allowed [abortion] throughout all nine months of pregnancy, without any restrictions” ... Three-fourths (76%) support pregnancy resource centers that do not perform abortions but instead offer support to people during their pregnancy and after a baby is born ... SBA Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser commented on the poll to LifeNews: “When it comes to protecting life and supporting women, Americans agree far more than the media will report ... We believe parents have a right to know if their daughters are considering abortion. And we believe women deserve all the compassion, support, and resources the pro-life safety net provides to genuinely empower them – not to be sold an abortion and sent off to figure out how to cope on their own.” (Source: [www.lifenews.com/2023/06/21/new-poll-shows-77-of-americans-wants-limits-on-abortions](http://www.lifenews.com/2023/06/21/new-poll-shows-77-of-americans-wants-limits-on-abortions))

### **Speaking up For Life**

“Neither America, nor democracy, nor capitalism, nor socialism, nor military might, nor diplomacy can even come close to beginning to solve the problems that exist in this world. Even in America, without Christ, we are without hope. And really, what a wonderful message of joy that is. It is not man that will change the world, but Christ alone, for in the end, the world cannot be changed; it is fully and completely at enmity with God.” *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan*

“Abortion advocates have no fear asserting what they imagine the Scriptures say or don’t say about the sanctity of life. Why shouldn’t our enthusiasm overshadow theirs? If Satan’s grown comfortable convoluting our truth, doesn’t the certainty and sensitivity our Savior has given welcome and even compel us eagerly to call out the devil’s lies?” *Pastor Michael Salemink*

“God has come down and given us His Son. But in times of doubt or struggle, we can clearly see—through the eyes of faith—Christ the Savior, shining bright into our world. And so, we go down the mountain to the everyday and even the unknown. Like the disciples then, we go with Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” *Rev. Cody Copper, guest speaker on The Lutheran Hour*



**Order LFL Resources at  
[www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)**



## LCMS- Stewardship-Ministry-Newsletter Article—AUGUST

### Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relation-ships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



## August Birthdays

- 1 John E. Jr.
- 2 Keylyn R.
- 4 Carol G.
- 5 Scott S.
- 7 Kathy B.  
Lynn C.  
Mackenzie G.  
Journey R.
- 8 John K.
- 9 Jeremy M.
- 10 Travis G.  
Rick H.  
Sandy R.
- 11 Jessica G.  
Grayson T.
- 12 Aria H.  
Nathan K.  
David M.  
Isabella W.
- 14 Hadley L.  
Maria P.
- 15 Aubrey F.
- 17 Robert C.  
Gina H.  
Judi P.  
Jacob T.
- 18 Sarah D.  
Aaron L.
- 19 Lori C.  
Anastasia T.
- 21 Nash W.
- 22 Lucia F.  
Aurelie F.  
Dylan W.
- 23 Steven T.
- 25 Lynn T.  
Scott W.
- 26 Bernie P.

## "Rejoice with those who Rejoice" -Romans 12:

- 27 Lynda H.  
Matthew P.  
Michael P.  
April R.
- 31 Leon L.  
Trinity M.  
Liam P.

### 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.*



## August Anniversaries

- 1 Jon & Tami O.
- 5 Mike & Jennifer P.
- 9 Keith & Krista F.
- 10 Miles & Barbara C.
- 17 Jeff & Erin F.
- 18 John & Christyl S.  
Tom & Lynn T.
- 19 Warren & Courtney W.
- 24 Michael & Cynthia W.
- 26 Scott & Candy S.
- 27 Pastor Matt & Heather R.
- 28 Dan & Cat O.
- 29 Keen & Suzanne S. Jr.
- 30 Doug & Ronda J.  
Larry & Cindy K.

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





# AUGUST 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship Services in bold print.</b>  <b>Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Service.</b> <b>(Marked with an asterisk*)</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 5:30 P.M. "Gsus Singers"	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
		Pastor Ruesch on Vacation				
<b>6</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship <b>9:00 A.M. Worship Service</b>  Pastor Ruesch on Vacation	<b>7</b> 6:30 P.M. Board of Elders	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 A.M. Service at Optalis Rehab & Care 5:30 P.M. "Gsus Singers"	<b>10</b> 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	<b>11</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship <b>9:00 A.M. Divine Service*</b> 10:30 A.M. Adult Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:30 P.M. "Gsus Singers"	<b>17</b> 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	<b>18</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship <b>9:00 A.M. Divine Service*</b> 10:30 A.M. Adult Bible Study	<b>21</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:30 P.M. "Gsus Singers"	<b>24</b> 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	<b>25</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<b>26</b> 7:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>27</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost 8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship <b>9:00 A.M. Divine Service*</b> 10:30 A.M. Adult Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:30 P.M. "Gsus Singers"	<b>31</b> 10:00 A.M. Bible Study		

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



## Ministry Staff

**Rev. Matthew Ruesch**  
Pastor

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**Renee Wilson**  
Secretary

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

*Here to Serve!*