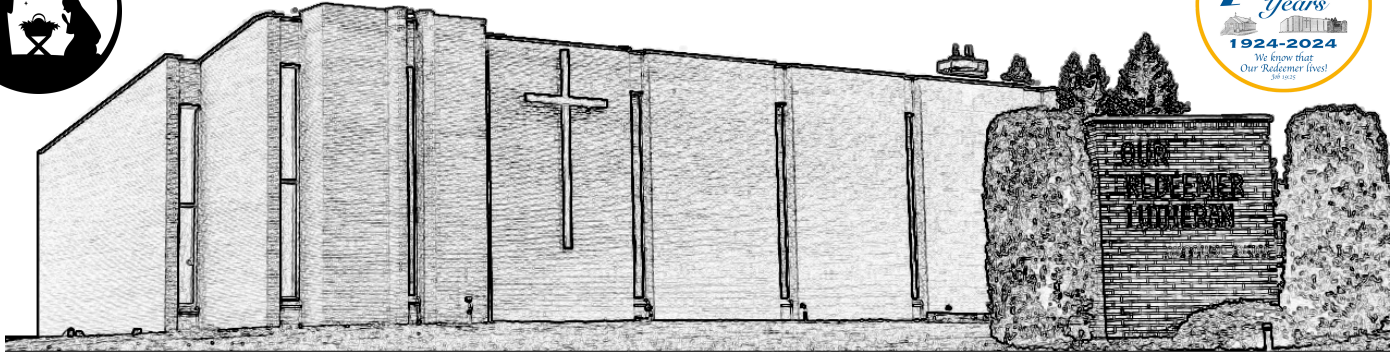


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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'" (Isaiah 40:3-6, ESV)

John the Baptist is the voice of the season of Advent...and the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy quoted above. He is the one who comes to prepare the way of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Savior of humanity.

And so we together embark on the season of Advent, hearing Isaiah and John's call to "prepare the way of the Lord." Both prophets call on us to remember that our God is not distant from His creation, but actively involved in it...even entering it in our own human flesh.

That may seem contrary to what our eyes and ears—and even, at times, our own hearts—tell us. We're so often overcome by a world where God seems absent. Evil seems to run rampant. Sin seems to run amok. The darkness of our fallen world can feel suffocating.

And so the seasons of Advent and Christmas are a beacon of light in that darkness. As the days grow shorter and the temperatures grow colder, the flames on the Advent wreath intensify in the light they give. On Christmas, the wreath gives its full light as we rejoice that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14) and our Savior from sin is found in Bethlehem's manger.

Along with the themes of light and God's coming among us, Advent calls us to repentance. Advent calls us to "make straight in the desert a highway for our God." We cast off the works of sin and darkness and turn to face the light of our coming Lord Jesus Christ.

As always, this Advent & Christmas season will provide multiple opportunities at Our Redeemer to hear the prophet's call to preparation. We invite you all to bask in the light of our coming Lord and join us at our Midweek Advent services and our three Christmas services (Christmas Eve, Christmas Midnight, and Christmas Day).

**"Let every heart prepare Him room!"
(LSB 387, st. 1)**

In Christ our Lord,


Pastor Ruesch



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship
9:00 A.M. Divine Service
10:30 A.M. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Youth Group

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:30 P.M. Catechism Vespers
7:00 P.M. Divine Service

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 LCMS.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/TheLCMS.

MINISTRY STAFF

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Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9 A.M. - 2 A.M.

HERE TO SERVE!

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NOVEMBER RECAP



ATTENDANCE

TOTALS	
NOVEMBER 1ST 7:00PM	17
NOVEMBER 5TH 9:00AM	96
NOVEMBER 8TH 7:00PM	9
NOVEMBER 12TH 9:00AM	83
NOVEMBER 15TH 9:00AM	15
NOVEMBER 19TH 9:00AM	100
NOVEMBER 22ND 7:00PM	33
NOVEMBER 26TH 9:00AM	81
NOVEMBER 29TH 7:00PM	11

OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

*Eleanor Woller

AFFIRMATION OF FATIH

ADULT CONFIRMATION

FUNERAL

*Allen Peterson

FIRST COMMUNION

ADDED TO MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFERS IN

TRANSFERS OUT

RELEASES

*Sandy Rozell (Death)

DECEMBER 7TH

2ND ANNUAL


Night of Giving

TO BENEFIT THE CURE - TEEN COACHING & LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP

VENUE 906
DECEMBER 7, 2023
5:30-6:30 SILENT AUCTION
6:30 DINNER & PROGRAM

TICKETS \$25/PER PERSON
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
AT THE CURE - IRON
MOUNTAIN OR BY CALLING
906-828-1643

WWW.THECUREIM.ORG



TEEN COACHING & LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP
IRON MOUNTAIN, MI
relate. create. connect.



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THIS DECEMBER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Midweek Advent Services

December 6th, 13th, & 20th - 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24th

Candlelight Vespers - 7:00P.M.

Christmas Midnight Divine Service - 11:00 P.M.

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day Divine Service - 9:00 A.M.

Movie Night! Saturday 12/9, 6PM Youth Group will be hosting a free showing of "The Polar Express", rated G, at Our Redeemer Church. Pajama wear is encouraged. Free will offering suggested, bring the family for popcorn and fun!

Poinsettia Youth Group Sale 12/10, 17 Youth Group will again be selling poinsettias this holiday season. \$20 per poinsettia with the option to take home or have it placed in front of the Sanctuary.

These fundraisers are to support the next Youth Group trip, the Ark Encounter in Kentucky next summer. Thank you for your support!



HERE TO SERVE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

9th Aiden L.
9th Paul M.
10th Jake S.
11th Emily M.
11th Patti D.
12th Warren W.
12th Ken B.
15th Jeremy P.
16th Gabriella V.
17th Paul R.
19th Carole E.
21st Carol T.
21st Joseph M.
22nd Roxie M.
23rd Quinn S.
26th Pauline L.
27th Anthony G.
28th Bob T.
31st Kris M.

ANNIVERSARIES

5th Gary & Jane L.
15th Jim & Vicki W.
27th Dana & Maridol B.
30th Brad & Gina H.
31st Greg & Sandy H.



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LWML RECAP & INFO.

November 13th LWML Meeting opened up with Thanksgiving Prayer & Bible Study, "Sow Seeds" by Barb C. with 13 members.

Our speaker Heather Ruesch gave us an inspirational and informative talk on The Cure that she & Pastor began in 2020. Their main focus is mentoring teens to improve their self worth. It is located at 922 River Ave. Iron Mountain, MI.

Youth (10-24 years old) are mentored mainly in 5 areas - physical, mental, emotional, social, & spiritual.

Physical - By using outside activities, clean eating and breathing exercises.

Mental - By creating with arts & crafts, team bonding, and journaling.

Social - By teaching healthy communication, healthy connections, & healthy compassion.

Emotional - By sharing, serving, & listening to perspectives.

Spiritual - Every Sunday Night they serve a meal and have bible study, receiving Jesus and learning about the sacraments, baptism, Divine Supper, The Word, & forgiveness.

All activities and learning sessions are giving to make a healthier and more well rounded person that knows they are loved and respected.

Attendance has grown from 7-45 active participants. Adults from the area are encouraged to share their talents and teach kids - such as cooking, knitting, wood working, ect.

Talk to Pastor Matt and Heather to learn more on how to contribute to this cause.

LWML Ladies Christmas Luncheon is on December 11th at 11AM at The Holiday Kitchen. All are welcome! Please sign up by December 4th!

Topics to be discussed:

- The Cure Presentation by Heather Ruesch
- 100th Centennial Ideas.
- Ladies Spring Banquet
- All upcoming LWML Events

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas Season with family and friends! Please join us for our Christmas Service hearing His words & singing His praise! God Bless!

Sincerely Caren & the LWML Girls!

STAMPS FOR A MISSION

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!

TADYCH'S/SUPERONE RECIEPTS

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.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO ALL ACTIVITIES

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LIFE NEWS—DECEMBER 2023



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Every year, Lutherans For Life/Y4Life participates in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. On November 14, the March for Life Education and Defense Fund announced the theme for the 51st annual March for Life: "Pro-Life: With Every Woman, For Every Child." Since *Roe v. Wade* was first enacted, over 65 million lives have been lost to the horrors of abortion. Tragically, polling shows that many of these lives could have been saved if more women were aware of the vast network of pro-life resources across the nation that have lovingly supported women and children for over 50 years. "This year's theme is at the heart of the pro-life movement, but it is a story often untold," said Jeanne Mancini, President of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. "For the past 51 years, the March for Life has powerfully witnessed to the tragedy of abortion while calling for stronger protections for women and the unborn. Yet nowhere is the beauty and importance of our work more powerfully embodied than in the day-to-day service of pregnancy support and maternity care organizations across the nation, which lovingly walk with women and their children, reminding them that they are never alone. This year's theme celebrates the heroic work of these organizations while offering a roadmap to how we will truly achieve a life-affirming culture that respects the inherent dignity of all human life." The 51st March for Life will be held on January 19, 2024. (*LifeNews.com*, 11/14/23)

Speaking up For Life

"Christmas is also a time to contemplate the gift of mortal LIFE through the miracle of birth. Christmas is the gift of LOVE that moms and dads shower on their children by saying yes to life—sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Regardless of the challenges, God has a perfect plan for each life that He brings into the world, and His will for them is to out-sparkle and out-shine any ornament." *Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute*

"As sure as Christmas will come again on December 25, our Lord will come again. As we look forward to the Last Day, let's dress for the occasion, putting on godliness and repentance. Let's celebrate everything He did the first time He came to assure us of our home of righteousness. Let's be spiritually awake and alert for His coming again, knowing that we will enjoy God's perfect paradise, our eternal home." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

"There is no more clear-pointed, rest-giving demonstration of the love of God for you than the gift of His Son." *Paul Tripp, pastor, author, and conference speaker*

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes



**ORDER LFL RESOURCES AT
WWW.CPH.ORG**

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

**~SUNDAY SCHOOL - SUNDAYS
AT 10:30 A.M.**

**~CATECHISM VESPERS -
WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30P.M.**

**~BIBLE STUDY - SUNDAY AT
10:30 A.M. & THURSDAYS AT
10 A.M.**



Lutheran Witness

Sign up to receive the Lutheran Witness Magazine! Please contact the office for more information.

HERE TO SERVE!

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STEWARDSHIP

“The Measure of Our Generosity”

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the “shadow” of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is “letter” in the Old Testament law and “spirit” (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: “The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel.”

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

LOOKING TO SERVE? CONTACT THE OFFICE OR TALK TO PASTOR!

THIS MONTH'S SCHEDULE

December 3rd

Elder: Gary P.
Organist: Bruce Rasmussen
Alter Guild: Cindy K.

December 6th

Elder: Rob K.
Digital Music

December 10th

Elder: Rob K.
Organist: Bruce Rasmussen & Choir
Alter Guild: Carol T.

December 13th

Elder: Gary P.
Digital Music

December 17th

Elder: Dana B.
Organist: Marian Volek & Choir
Alter Guild: Maridol B.

December 20th

Elder: Dana B.
Digital Music

December 24th

9AM Elder: Rob K.
7PM Elder: Jim R.
11PM Elder: Jim R.
Digital Music
Alter Guild: Sue R.

December 25th

Elder: Jim R.
Digital Music

December 31st

Elder: Gary P.
Digital Music
Alter Guild: Jenna L.



OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023

Keep Up-to-Date:

www.ourredeemerlingsford.org

Facebook: [/ourredeemerlingsford](https://www.facebook.com/ourredeemerlingsford)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 1 st S. in Advent (<i>Ad Te Levavi</i>) 8:30 A.M. Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:30 A.M. Education Hour	4 6:30 P.M. Board of Elders	5 5:30 P.M. 8:00 S us Singers	6 <i>Midweek of Advent 1</i> 9:00 A.M. Service at ProMedica 5:30 P.M. Catechism Vespers 7:00 P.M. Midweek Advent Divine Service*	7	1 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	2 9:00 A.M. Christmas Decorating
					8 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	9
10 2 nd S. in Advent (<i>Populus Zion</i>) 8:30 A.M. Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:30 A.M. Education Hour	11 11:00 A.M. Ladies' Guild Christmas Luncheon @ Holiday Kitchen	12 5:30 P.M. 8:00 S us Singers	13 <i>Midweek of Advent 2</i> 5:30 P.M. Catechism Vespers 7:00 P.M. Midweek Advent Divine Service*	14 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	15 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	16
17 3 rd S. in Advent (<i>Gaudete</i>) 8:30 A.M. Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* 10:30 A.M. Education Hour	18	19 5:30 P.M. 8:00 S us Singers	20 <i>Midweek of Advent 3</i> 5:30 P.M. Catechism Vespers 7:00 P.M. Midweek Advent Divine Service*	21 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	22 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	23
24 4 th S. in Advent (<i>Rorate Coeli</i>) <i>Christmas Eve</i> 8:30 A.M. Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* <i>No Education Hour</i> 7:00 P.M. Candlelight Vespers 11:00 P.M. Divine Service*	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Service*	26	27 <i>No Midweek Divine Service</i>	28 <i>No Bible Study</i>	29 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	30
31 1 st S. after Christmas 8:30 A.M. Fellowship 9:00 A.M. Divine Service* <i>No Education Hour</i>						

Worship Services in bold print.

Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Service.
(Marked with an asterisk*)



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420 West Breitung Avenue
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