

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grow in LOVE - Serve with JOY

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The Evangel

2023



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Preparing for Lent . . . A Life of Prayer

How can it possibly be time for Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent? Time continues to move forward even when we are not prepared for it. On February 22nd we will gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ for the Ash Wednesday service which marks the beginning of Lent's baptismal preparation for Easter. On that day, our foreheads will be marked with an ashen cross (a gesture rooted in baptism) and consider once again the meaning of our baptism into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we are marked with that cross of ashes we hear God's promise of forgiveness, and the invitation to eat his bread of life, drink his cup of salvation and be refreshed through his great mercy. In the weeks to follow we will continue to gather on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings with the hope of deepening the understanding of our baptism, renewing our mind, body and spirit while awaiting the joy of Easter.

This time of waiting, Lent, is filled with the longing for Easter, for spring, and for longer days of God's light. Often during the 40 days of Lent there is a time of penitence, preparation and prayerful reflection. Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. As early as the second century, many Christians observed several days of fasting as part of that preparation. In the early centuries, the season before Easter was also the usual period of intense training for new Christians preparing for their baptism and life as a disciple. *(article continued on page 14)*



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Church Office hours
Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
507-874-3343

Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Scholarships

PEARL E. SCHMIDT NURSING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee is awarding a nursing scholarship to a 2023 graduating high school senior or person who has successfully completed one year of education in an RN program. All applicants must be pursuing a career as a registered nurse. Scholarship award criteria includes academics, church and community involvement and demonstrated leadership. Redeemer Lutheran church members have first priority if they have met all criteria. Applications available at the Church Office. Deadline for submission of application is April 1, 2023.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee is awarding an educational scholarship to a 2023 graduating high school senior who is, or will be, attending a college or a post-secondary school of higher education. Scholarship award criteria includes academics, church and community involvement and demonstrated leadership. Redeemer Lutheran church members have first priority if they have met all the requirements. Applications available at the Church Office. Deadline for submission of application is April 1, 2023.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Heritage Honor Memorial



Heritage Honor Memorial Wall

Redeemer Lutheran will be placing an order in March for additional bricks for the Heritage Honor Memorial Wall in our West entrance. If you would like to have an engraved memorial brick added to the wall the cost is \$100 with three engraved lines (with 12 characters per line). Please contact Kurt in the Church Office (507-874-3343) to place your order before February 28th.



The Lenten Season for Redeemer Lutheran and Concordia Lutheran Churches

Concordia and Redeemer congregations will be sharing in joint worship services that will be alternating locations throughout the

Lenten Season beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Please note the following schedule of joint worship services through Holy Week.

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, 6:30 p.m. service at Redeemer with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes.



Wednesday, Mid-Week Lenten Suppers and

Services – We will begin with a light supper at 5:45 pm followed by a worship service at 6:30 pm. Volunteers are needed in each congregation to assist in providing the light meal (perhaps soup or hotdish, bread or sandwiches, chips, bars or cookies, etc.) Please see sign-ups at each congregation.

March 1st at Concordia– 5:45 meal and 6:30 worship
March 8th at Redeemer– 5:45 meal and 6:30 worship
March 15th at Concordia– 5:45 meal and 6:30 worship
March 22nd at Redeemer – 5:45 meal and 6:30 worship
March 29th at Concordia – 5:45 meal and 6:30 worship

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2nd (services in each congregation)

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia with Palm Processional with children and Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer with Palm Processional with children and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 6th, 6:30 p.m. Service at Redeemer with Holy Communion, students receiving their First Communion, and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 7th, 6:30 p.m. Service at Concordia

Easter Sunday, April 9th (services in each congregation)

8:30 a.m. at Concordia with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. at Redeemer with Holy Communion (no fellowship)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

(article continued from the front cover) Today, Lent is still a time of preparation for the Christian. Lent is sort of like the season of spring training for the soul. It is the time for us to have a deep heart-to-heart with the creator who made us, the redeemer who claims us, the sanctifier who brings us to renewal. Lent is a time for listening and speaking with God, for fine-tuning the communication skills, and working out the rough spots in our relationship. Lent is a time to reflect on the very meaning of our life as a baptized child of God. Now is an opportunity for us to identify what is essential in our daily life as Christians, let go of the extra baggage and focus on the one or two chief tasks that deserve our greatest effort—here, now. It is a good time to make an honest appraisal of our spiritual health and take actions that lead to the affirmation of life, that is life in Christ.

This preparation time of Lent reminds us of the need for discipline, disciplines such as caring for one's self, caring for others, worship time, reading God's word, and prayer time. To live as Christians we are called to be in ongoing communication with our God. A life of daily prayer offers us time as individuals and communities to give thanks and praise to God, share our concerns and needs, confess our sins, and ask for forgiveness, strength and guidance.

And yet, many of us are afraid to pray, unsure of what to say to God or we find a dozen excuses why we just don't have time to pray. But perhaps the biggest obstacle to a daily life of prayer is not getting the answers we wanted, when we wanted, so we give up on praying all together, believing "God doesn't care for me because if he did he would have answered my prayer." The good news is that we are not alone in our struggles with prayer or any other matter in our life. Jesus our Lord and Savior has shown us how to pray in the midst of struggle. His time of prayer in Gethsemane is one important example (see Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46). Jesus also gave us specific words in the form of the Lord's Prayer, that we could use to pray especially when we cannot find our own words to pray. See the two examples of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:5-14 and Luke 11:1-4.

During the upcoming season of Lent, I hope you create time and space in your life for prayer. I pray that as you prepare for the coming of spring you include time for personal reflection, worship, the reading and hearing of God's word, singing and praying with your neighbors in and around Concordia, and most importantly time to remember the promises God has lavished upon you in your baptism: forgiveness, grace, love, hope, salvation, and new life.

In the Peace of Christ,
Pastor Kristi

Tanya Hemmingsen	2/1	Lori Janzig	2/15
Ana Guenther	2/3	Maggie Evans	2/16
Steve Haukoos	2/3	Emily Hassing	2/16
Greta Dahlberg	2/4	John Nesje	2/16
Rylie Burris	2/5	Tammy Newman	2/17
Maverick Babcock	2/6	Cassie Wasmoen	2/17
Nathaniel Phelps	2/6	Jaiven Marth	2/19
Danny Troska	2/7	Amanda Miller	2/19
Sam Jacobs	2/8	Kristen Willems	2/20
Emilee Weigel	2/8	Anne Jahnke	2/22
Trevor Kluender	2/9	Kenlee Carlson	2/23
John Barron	2/10	Jenny Hendrickson	2/23
Bill Mitchell	2/12	Samantha Armstrong	2/24
Carol Linde	2/12	Kaetlin Bendickson	2/27
Linda Wasmoen	2/13	Bryn Nelson	2/27
Madison Hendrickson	2/13	Noah Nelson	2/27
Sam Hallman	2/14	Dan Reindal	2/27
Ava Diekmann	2/15	Ross Huper	2/28
Evan Guenther	2/15		

Personnel

- Pastor Kristi Mitchell
- Kurt Mylenbusch,
Admin. Assistant
- Trent Nelson, Custodian
- Shirley Newman, Financial
Secretary
- Shirley Newman, Ann Purdy
& Helen Steene, Organists

Contact Information

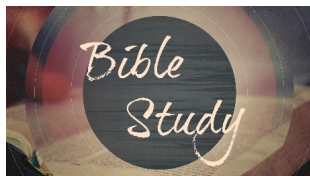
- Office: 507-874-3343
- Pastor's Cell: 507-360-1224
- Email: rlc@redeemeralden.com
- Pastor's Email: pastor@redeemeralden.com
- Web site: www.redeemeralden.com
- Facebook: Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Sunday School Facebook:
Alden Redeemer Lutheran Sunday School

Exploring Hymns of Faith

The “Hymns of Faith” Bible Study continues during February. Sessions focus on a different hymn of our faith each time we gather. Each session will be a “stand-alone” session. We will learn about the history and legends associated with the hymn, look at the composers or writers related to the hymn, and consider how the message of the hymn applies to our daily journey of faith.

Each session will be offered twice, once on Thursday afternoon and once on Monday evening. Hope you can come explore music, Scripture, and story with us!

Session 3 – Feb. 2nd 2:00 pm at Concordia
Session 4 – Feb. 13th 6:30 pm at Redeemer
and Feb. 16th 2:00 pm at Concordia
Session 5 – Feb. 20th 6:30 pm at Redeemer
and Feb. 23rd 2:00 pm at Concordia



Busy Fingers Quilting at Redeemer!

Meeting 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 9:00 am
Luther Hall, no special requirements needed.

Next Quilting Dates:
February 7th, February 21st, March 7th

If you have any used mattress pads or blankets, the quilters can use them for fillers.

Annual Meeting. Motion to accept, seconded, and motion passed.

-Wayne indicated no update yet on looking at railing at Merv Boettcher's place.

New Business -

-Confirmation Sunday date—April 27th

-Confirm Audit Team for 2022 Audit— Eb Howe and Beth Wilder - Motion to confirm Eb & Beth to the audit committee. Motion seconded and motion passed affirming them. Eb & Beth did a great job getting the audit completed.

Committee Reports

Christian Education— Sunday School is back in session after the holidays.

Youth—Going sledding Sunday, January 22.

Missions & Outreach— no updates

Endowment— Met on November 14. Next meeting is February 6 at 5pm.

Property—no updates

Music & Worship— no updates

Other Items –

Redeemer Council to meet immediately after the Annual Meeting to elect officers for the Council.

Joint Council Meeting January 25th, 7:30 pm at Redeemer

Josh volunteered for council duties for February.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, and passed.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:23 pm.

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Nikki Weber-Knutson, Secretary

Month End Finances

December

December Inc./Exp.

Income: \$18,367.95

Expenses: \$17,795.58



Council Minutes

January
2023

- JOSH SORENSEN, PRESIDENT
- WAYNE JACOBS, VICE PRESIDENT
- NIKKI WEBER-KNUTSON, SECRETARY
- JERRY REYERSON, TREASURER
- CURT GUENTHER
- LORI MILLER
- JANELLE JACOBS
- TARA ROBERTS
- GRANT PETERSEN

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Unapproved Church Council
Minutes
January 18, 2023

President Josh Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Opening devotions given by Pastor Kristi.

In attendance were Pastor Kristi Mitchell, Josh Sorensen, Curt Guenther, Nikki Weber-Knutson, Janelle Jacobs, Lori Miller, Tara Roberts, and Wayne Jacobs. Absent: Grant Peterson and Jerry Reyerson

Reviewed Secretary's Report, meeting minutes from December 28. Motion to accept, seconded, and motion passed.

Reviewed Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept, seconded, and motion passed.

Pastor's Report –

-Will be on vacation February 6 –

February 12. Pastor Erica will be here for both Redeemer and Concordia services.

-Blue Earth River Conference on Sunday, February 12th, 2 pm in Walters. Pastor indicated council is welcome to attend.

-Councils as Leaders Synod Event Sunday, March 19th, 1 pm in Albert Lea. Pastor indicated council is welcome to attend.

-As Lori Miller & Wayne Jacobs transition off the Council, we thank them for serving the past three years!

-Camp Sunday is this Sunday, January 22 – Erik Dahl will be here for service and fellowship.

Old Business –

-Annual Meeting January 29th. Start with a short 8:30 worship, then move right into the annual meeting. Will need a few council members to help with the Zoom. Josh will check with Grant about bringing his laptop.

-Nominations – Nominations committee is doing well.

-Ministry Partnership—service time switch for March and April. 8:30 am for Concordia and 10:30 am for Redeemer. Sunday School time remains the same at 9:45-10:30. Fellowship will be held before worship at 9:30.

-Hand rail for altar steps – Curt is still working on it.

-Approve proposed 2023 budget for congregational review at

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE:

Feb. 1 5:45—7:15 pm

7th/8th Grade Confirmation Class at Redeemer

Feb. 1 7:30-8:15 pm

9th Grade Confirmation Class at Redeemer

Feb. 8 Confirmation Class cancelled

Feb. 12 9th Grade Student and Mentor gathering time cancelled

Feb. 15 5:45-7:15 pm

7th/8th Grade Confirmation Class at Redeemer



Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Service no confirmation classes

Please call or text Pastor Kristi at 507-360-1224 or email at pastor@redeemeralden.com if you have any questions about confirmation.

Concordia and Redeemer Youth Group

Our next Youth Group event is Sunday, February 26th—6:30-8:00 pm. This will be our Random Acts of Kindness event. We will gather at Concordia Lutheran Church at 6:30 pm, head into Albert Lea

to share in our random acts, and then end the night with pie and fellowship. We will be looking for additional adults to help provide transportation for our group. Please RSVP if you will be attending by February 22nd to pastor@redeemeralden.com. Contact Pastor Kristi (507-360-1224) or Kayla Roberts (507-402-9790), our Youth Group Assistant, if you have any questions about our Youth Group event.



Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

Acolytes

February

5: Toby Soost & Cael Boldt
12: Aspen Soost & Makalynn Weigel
19: Addison Mattson & Luke Gooden
22: Danika Diekmann & Rylin Troska
26: Aspen Soost

February

Ross & Kelly Skov
Josh Sorensen

Ushers

Coffee Fellowship February Servers

5: Dean & Myrna Sorensen
12: Sunday School Students
19: Eb & Marnie Howe
26: *Someone Needed*



LECTORS

February

5: Josh Sorensen
12: Nikki Weber-Knutson
19: Roger Pestorous
22: Radley Miller
26: *Someone Needed*



February

Lori Miller
Colleen Jahnke

SAVE THE DATE:

RLC VBS, *Pets
Unleashed*
June 11-13



Faithful Fridays

After School Program

At Redeemer Lutheran



Faithful Fridays - After School

Who?

Students PreK-6th grade - Redeemer Sunday School students are encouraged to invite a friend to join them! The after-school events will be led by our Sunday School leaders.

What is it?

Friday after school/evening activity for students PreK-6th grade. After school snacks, activities, music, supper, and FUN will be provided.

When?

Select upcoming Fridays ~ **February 24th** from 3:30 - 6 p.m., **March 24th** (Late Night Event) from 5 - 10 p.m., and **April 21st** from 3:30 - 6 p.m.

Where?

After school, students can meet in Miss Nicky's room (preschool room) and walk with leaders to the church. Drop-off at the church, for younger students not in school at that time will also be available at 3:30 p.m. Evening activities end at 6 p.m. ~ students to be picked up at the church.

RSVP ~ Please complete online registration (*see Redeemer FB page/Remind*) or included paper format and return to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Suggested donation is \$5 per child for Faithful Friday After School event and \$10 per child for *Late Night Event*.

RSVP preferred at least two days prior to the event start date. Thank you!



Note: Sunday School follows the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service each Sunday, starting at 9:45 a.m. and dismisses at 10:30 a.m.*

Sunday School Happenings:

Feb. 5 ~ Lesson "Salt and Light"
Feb. 12 ~ ***Kids Sing*** Lesson "Jesus Teaches About Anger"
Feb. 19 ~ **President's Day Wknd NO CLASS**
Feb. 24 ~ **Faithful Fridays After School Activity**,
 3:30-6 p.m.
Special parent meeting at 5:30 p.m. Supper included!
Feb. 26 ~ Lesson "The First Sin"
Christian Coin Store

Last month, we sent home offering envelopes for each child. Please contact the church office if you have not yet received your child's offering envelopes.
 How much can we collect for the month of February?

Classroom Organizers/Leaders

Preschool-1st Grade: Tana Christensen & Michelle Petersen
 Grades 2-4: Megan Gooden & Nicky Weigel
 Grades 5-6: Erin Cummings & Kayla Roberts
 Sunday School Leader: Anna Sorensen

Special Thanks to Erik from Good Earth Village for joining us on our very own Camp Sunday!

Many options for summer camp are available for students Preschool (age 3+) - 12th Grade!
 Early-bird registration ends in March.
 Visit www.goodearthvillage.org for more information.

Calendar of Events for February 2023

<u>Wed. 2/1</u>	5:45—7:15 pm 7th/8th Gr Confirmation Class at Redeemer 7:30-8:15 9th Grade Confirmation Class at Redeemer
<u>Thurs. 2/2</u>	2:00 pm Session 3—Hymns of Faith Study at Concordia
<u>Sun. 2/5</u>	8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School
<u>Mon. 2/6</u>	5:00 pm Endowment Committee Meeting
<u>Tues. 2/7</u>	9:00 am Busy Fingers Quilting 4:00-6:00 pm Alden Food Shelf
<u>Wed. 2/8</u>	No Confirmation Class
<u>Sun. 2/12</u>	8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 2:00 Blue Earth River Conference Assembly—United Lutheran Church, Walters, MN
<u>Mon. 2/13</u>	6:00-7:45 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Session 4—Hymns of Faith Study at Redeemer
<u>Tues. 2/14</u>	4:00-6:00 pm Alden Food Shelf
<u>Wed. 2/15</u>	5:45-7:15 pm 7th/8th Grade Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Church Council meeting
<u>Thurs. 2/16</u>	2:00 pm Session 4—Hymns of Faith Study at Concordia
<u>Sun. 2/19</u>	8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Fellowship No Sunday School—President's Day Weekend
<u>Mon. 2/20</u>	6:30 pm Session 5—Hymns of Faith Study at Redeemer
<u>Tues. 2/21</u>	9:00 am Busy Fingers Quilting 4:00-6:00 pm Alden Food Shelf
<u>Wed. 2/22</u>	6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Joint Worship Service at Redeemer Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes No Confirmation Classes 7:30 pm Joint Council Meeting at Redeemer
<u>Thurs. 2/23</u>	7:30 am-4:30 pm Preschool Screening Day 2:00 pm Session 5—Hymns of Faith Study at Concordia
<u>Fri. 2/24</u>	3:30-6:00 pm Faithful Fridays After School Program
<u>Sun. 2/26</u>	8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 6:30-8:00 pm Youth Group meet at Concordia
<u>Mon. 2/27</u>	6:00-7:45 pm Cub Scouts
<u>Tues. 2/28</u>	4:00-6:00 pm Alden Food Shelf
<u>Wed. 3/1</u>	5:45 pm Lenten Supper at Concordia Lutheran 6:30 pm Lenten Worship Service at Concordia Lutheran



CHANGE of Worship Service Times for March and April 2023

In December and January, the Concordia and Redeemer council leaders shared in thoughtful discussion regarding worship services following our December 11th and 18th congregational conversations about our parish ministry partnership. Both Councils have agreed that our congregations will experiment with switching our worship times for the months of March and April. To assist each congregation to experience an earlier and a later worship time, Concordia Lutheran will worship at 8:30 am beginning March 5th and Redeemer Lutheran will worship at 10:30 am.

Pastor Kristi and the Council leaders understand that this time switch is a change that may bring challenges to folks in both congregations, just like our current worship times may not fit everyone well. Our hope is to share in this cooperative worship switch to work together for the greater good of our parish and share in who worships early and who worships later. A reminder that all members of both congregations are invited to worship at either Concordia or Redeemer.

The Sunday worship schedule will be as follows:

March Worship Schedule

Sunday School times will remain at 9:45 for each congregation according to each church SS schedule. Fellowship time at Redeemer will be held at 9:30 am PRIOR to worship.

Sunday, March 5th

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer Holy Communion

Sunday, March 12th

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia

10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer

Sunday, March 19th

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer Holy Communion

Sunday, March 26th

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia

10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer

April Worship Schedule

Sunday School times will remain at 9:45 for each congregation according to each church SS schedule. Fellowship time at Redeemer will be held at 9:30 am PRIOR to worship.

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia with Palm Processional with children and Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer with Palm Processional with children and Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, April 9th

8:30 a.m. at Concordia with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. at Redeemer with Holy Communion

(no fellowship)

Sunday, April 16th

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer Holy Communion

Sunday, April 23rd

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia

10:30 a.m. Service at Redeemer

Sunday, April 30th

8:30 a.m. Service at Concordia

10:30 a.m. Confirmation Sunday Service at Redeemer

Thank you to the following members who will be serving on our Congregation Council for 2023:

- JOSH SORENSEN, PRESIDENT
- GRANT PETERSEN, VICE PRESIDENT
- NIKKI WEBER-KNUTSON, SECRETARY
- JERRY REYERSON, TREASURER
- CURT GUENTHER
- TONYA HANSEN
- JANELLE JACOBS
- TARA ROBERTS
- BRADY GOODEN

