

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

THE LAMP

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH. PSALM 119:105

DECEMBER
2024

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FROM THE PASTOR

Merry Christmas and Happy Anniversary!

There are so many wonderful things to celebrate at Redeemer this month. First and foremost is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Whether the holidays bring you immense joy or a sense of sadness, there is a

truer meaning to the season that surpasses any emotion we feel on this earth. With the birth of the Savior, comes the promise of the cross, the guarantee of an eternity with our Creator in heaven, and the reunion with loved ones that have gone before.

The Lord commands us to go and tell everyone about this baby, this gift, this sacrifice. As we begin our year long celebration of Redeemer's 100th Anniversary, our theme will be taken from Psalm 145, especially verse 4, which reads: "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

I can't help but reflect on my nearly 27 years serving this incredible congregation and will always consider it as one of my most treasured earthly experiences to be part of her history, but I'm even more blessed that she was part of my history; however, I am just one of the pieces of her story. We all make up the mosaic of the rich history of a church that has been blessed beyond measure and has been a good steward of the mandate to pass the message of Christ down from generation to generation.

We will provide many opportunities throughout this anniversary year to celebrate, learn more about our history, and become closer as a congregation. Please keep reading the weekly announcements, Lamp, and website for all the opportunities that will be presented. I especially want to encourage you to visit the Town Square every month to see the rotating display our historical committee has been painstakingly working on for over a year; and to participate in the exciting events our church staff and volunteers have begun planning.

Continued on page 8.



Pastor Randy

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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Phone: 248-644-4010

E-mail: redeemer@redeemberirmingham.org

Website: www.redeemberirmingham.org

Facebook: Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

*Our mission is to faithfully communicate the love of God,
nurture people in their Christian faith,
and equip people to bring the love of Jesus to others.*

Rev. Randall J. Schlak - Senior Pastor	ext. 119
Rev. James Greenwalt - Assistant Pastor	ext. 117
Rev. Ron Farah - Pastor Emeritus	248.642.3137
Gary Priskorn - Dir. of Men's and Senior Ministry	ext. 123
Kitty Sweitzer - Dir. of Women's Ministry	ext. 111
Nicole Olds - Dir. of Children's Ministry	ext. 124
Steve SeGraves - Dir. of Music	ext. 129
Laura Vowell - Dir. of Family Life, Middle School, Confirmation & Outreach	ext. 121
Gia Scheidt - Dir. of High School	ext. 120
Eric Wisniewski - Assistant Dir. High School	ext. 120
Kim Davis - Dir. of Fellowship	248.613.4200
Pat Raezler - Dir. of Westmaple Nursery	ext. 126
Rose Kiehle - Office Manager	ext. 116
Pam Tyndall - Professional Staff/Office Liaison	ext. 118
Carrie Morris - Office Coordinator	ext. 114
Laura Jones - Accountant	ext. 110
Fred Suczynski - Building Maintenance	ext. 113
Dr. Sandy Pourcho - Counseling Center	248.568.6040

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays - 8:00am (Chapel), 9:00, *10:30am (Sanctuary)

Mondays - 7:00pm (Chapel)

*Livestreamed Service

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

1st & 3rd Sundays - 9:00am and 10:30am

2nd, 4th & 5th Sun./Mon. - Sun. 8:00am; Mon. 7:00pm

OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Attendance Totals	2024	2023
Worship	414	377
Bible Class	158	149
Sunday School	26	21
Monthly Attendance Totals	2024	2023
Communion	718	703
Visitors	26	31
Income and Expenses	2024	2023
Income Received	\$144,553	\$163,854
Budget Requirements	\$162,341	\$152,826
General Fund Expenses	\$173,896	\$153,765
YTD Fiscal-Year Income	\$396,468	\$388,284
YTD Fiscal Year Expenses	\$348,722	\$318,139

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“Repenting of Yours and Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

*That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord’s house.

**Credit LCMS Stewardship Newsletter*



CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

CEF is a long-trusted ministry partner of churches and schools in the Michigan District since 1901 where individuals and congregations can invest their money.

Why Should I Invest at Church Extension Fund?

When an individual or congregation invests at CEF, they help to build churches and schools across Michigan. The invested money is used to make construction or renovation loans to churches, like the CEF loan Redeemer has, that made Sacred Space 2 possible. The interest paid back on those loans helps pay the interest on your investments. Your investment at CEF will build a church, school, or other ministry. When you invest at a bank, you will build another bank building. Your investment at CEF runs into eternity! It’s a win-win for everyone! **For more information call Curtis Burstein at 248.320.5100, our Redeemer Representative.**

****Updated Interest Rate sheets are available around the building.***

IN REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION



In Memory

GIVE A MEMORIAL GIFT

Donations made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Carol Frost

*Tom and Brenda Boyce
Emily and Aaron Gilcreast
Sherry Higgins
Leslie Whitfield*

A memorial is a gift given in memory of someone who has gone to be with their Lord. If you would like to donate to a specific ministry in memory of someone who has passed, you can use a memorial card located in the church office or specify on your check the ministry and the person whom you are memorializing.

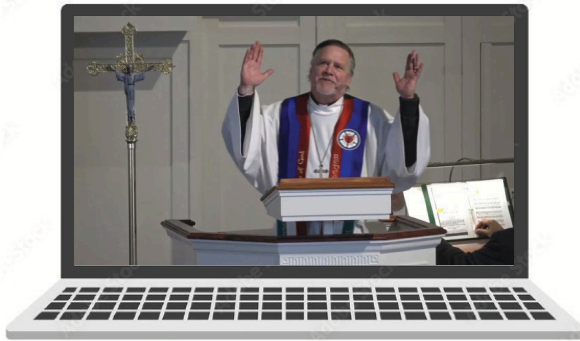
*Oftentimes, families would like to donate an item in memory of a loved one (i.e. paschal candles, benches, alter items, or trees - any items the church may need). For more information on this, please contact **Pastor Randy**.*

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Heavenly Father,
As we step into the month of December, we come before You with a heart full of reflection and gratitude. This month marks the end of another year - a year filled with both challenges and blessings, losses and gains, tears and laughter. We thank You for Your faithfulness through it all. Your unchanging hand has guided us, your strength has upheld us, and Your love has enveloped us every day.
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP



How do I watch Sunday Services LIVE online?

- Go to the church website.
www.redeemberirmingham.org
- Click the first Vimeo square on the front page of the website.
- Click on the video that has the **LIVE** indicator. *The indicator will appear when the service has starts.*



WHEN VIEWING ON SMARTPHONE OR TABLET: Right below the church description, select the word **VIDEO** to watch the current live video and **ABOUT** to learn more about Redeemer. You can watch **PAST VIDEOS** under the Showcase option.

How do I watch past services or other videos on demand?

- Go to the church website.
www.redeemberirmingham.org
- Click the second Vimeo square on the front page of the website.
- This will take you to "Redeemer's Showcase" page where you can view all of Redeemer's past videos. Choose the category you'd like and select the video.



Please don't hesitate to contact the Church Office if you encounter any difficulties viewing videos.

KINDLY NOTE: If you are struggling to hear the audio on Vimeo, simply click on the closed-caption option to read the dialogue. The closed caption button is labeled CC (in a box) located at the bottom right of the screen.

ALTAR FLOWERS*

Sign-up now for either Altar or Lectern flowers in the Sanctuary or the Chapel! Rates are as follows:

- Sanctuary: \$55
- Chapel: \$50
- Lectern: \$45

You can find the sign-up charts on the Town Square bulletin board or online under the "WAYS TO SERVE" box on the church website. You can complete the dedication form and make payment directly online or follow the link in your email you receive to confirm your sign-up. Alternatively, you can email your dedication to the **Church Office**, drop off your check at the Church Office, or leave payment in the Sunday morning offering plate **clearly marked "Altar Flowers."**

Please remember to leave the flower liners for the following week when collecting your flowers! Sanctuary flowers can be picked up after Sunday's 10:30am service, and Chapel flowers after Monday's 7:00pm service. For assistance, please reach out to the **Church Office** for support.

**Sign-up links can be found on the church's website by selecting "WAYS TO SERVE" and then "Altar and Lectern Flower Sign-Up."*



Our Sanctuary has a Hearing Loop to assist those with hearing loss. Users should set their hearing aids to T-coil.

Please see an usher if you have questions or for additional information.

COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion in your pew during the church service, **kindly inform one of the ushers before the service starts**, and they will be sure to accommodate your request.

ITTY BITTY BUDDY BAGS!

Welcome to Redeemer, LITTLE ONES! Learn about Jesus while you sit in church with mommy and Daddy with your very own Itty-Bitty Buddy Bag for tiny tots! Packed with snuggly toys, books, and fun stuff, you can join in, watch, and play during the service! **Don't forget to return the bags to Nicole Olds' office after the fun.** And if you're in the mood for some playtime, we've got a nursery waiting for you with tons of toys!

DECEMBER Lamp

PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP

VOLUNTEER AT REDEEMER

*Scan the QR code to visit Redeemer's website and click on "WAYS TO SERVE" to explore volunteering opportunities at church!
You can also find sign-up details on the Town Square bulletin board.*



BE A READER*

Would you be interested in reading the Old Testament and Epistle Scripture passages during worship? Readers of all ages, from 5 to 95, are welcome to participate in ALL worship services! You can sign up under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or reach out to the **Church Office** for more information.

BE A GREETER*

If you can offer a friendly "good morning," a handshake, and a welcoming smile, and have an extra 15-minutes on a Sunday morning, you can play an essential role in outreach – GREETING! Redeemer is in need of volunteers to welcome attendees at the Town Square doors before the 9:00am and 10:30am services. Bring along a friend, your family, and your kids for this wonderful opportunity to serve your community! You can sign-up for this rewarding experience under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or contact **Laura Vowell** for more information.

MYSTERY PRELUDE

Have a song request? Sign-up to have our organist, Rick Helderop, perform your requested song during the Prelude at all Sunday services (8:00 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am)! To sign up, visit the church website homepage or scan the QR code below to go directly to the Request Form. The fee is \$10, and all proceeds contribute to our Mission Fund! Thank you for participating!



HOST A COFFEE HOUR*

We are looking for volunteers to host special "In Memoriam" coffee hours on Sunday mornings throughout our Anniversary year! We will provide simple instructions to help you set it up, and this is a fantastic opportunity to serve your congregation! Please contact **Andrea Schlak** with questions or to sign-up (schlakandrea@gmail.com)!

FAMILY USHERING*

Your family can help out the congregation by ushering on a Sunday morning! You will distribute bulletins and assist with passing the offering plates during the service. There will also be an usher from the church available during the service to support you along the way. You can sign-up under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or contact **Laura Vowell** for more information.

ACOLYTING & CROSS BEARING*

The Redeemer Acolyte & Cross Bearing Program is open to anyone who wishes to serve and is also a requirement for students in the Confirmation program. Crissy Bienkowski will return this year as our coordinator! You can sign up under the "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact **Crissy Bienkowski** (crissybienkowski@gmail.com).



SAINT LUCIA GIRLS

We are in need of girls, dressed in their Christmas best, to carry the Christmas candle to the altar for each of our Christmas Eve services - Tuesday December 24th at 10:00am and 8:00pm. If you have a young daughter who is interested in being a St. Lucia girl at one of the services, please sign-up on the church website. A chime ringer for that portion of the service is also needed. It is VERY easy - no experience necessary! Contact the Church Office with questions.



HOLY HOUSEKEEPING

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

December 11

January 8

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETINGS

December 4

January 22



Should you receive an email from Pastor Randy requesting gift cards or valuable items, **PLEASE IGNORE IT!** Be sure to look carefully at the email address – if it does not come from rschlak@redeemberbirmingham.org, it is **NOT** from Pastor Randy. ***Please delete the email and AVOID RESPONDING.***

If you are unsure, kindly forward the email to or contact the Church Office, and we will look into it further for you.

A POEM FROM OUR HISTORY

'Snow' by Mildred Reilly

Snowflakes fall softly and cover the earth with a glorious sight

By creating a blanket of pure, intricate, glistening white.

Sparkling, each flake so different one from the other

No man could design such a beautiful cover.

There's a stillness that envelopes the forest and the plains
That brings peace to the soul when the noise of the world
is restrained-

Another blessing sent from our Father above-
Beauty-Peace-a time for prayer.

This poem was written by Mildred Reilly in the 1970s. Mildred was a Sunday School teacher and she taught teacher training for those of us who had been confirmed and wanted to teach Sunday School and School of Religion. Her husband, Ralph Reilly, was the Sunday School Superintendent for many years.

TRIVIA FOR CHRISTMAS MINISTRY

Pastor Duane had a long-standing tradition of having a celebratory bag of spirits in his office to share with a group of special friends after the Christmas Eve service. He passed this along to Pastor Randy, and the tradition carries on!

UPDATE YOUR MEMBER PROFILE!

Kindly log in to your ShelbyNext Membership, church database, to verify or update your family's profile information. For quick access to the church directory and calendar while on the move, download the **ShelbyNext Membership app** on your phone or smart device (the domain name is **redeemberbirmingham**). Alternatively, you can log in via the church's website on your desktop computer by selecting "CHURCH MEMBERSHIP."

If you would like assistance with updating your profile or need help with your login credentials, please reach out to the Church Office.

****Please be aware that we no longer send out printed directories since our online database is always changing. If you prefer a printed copy, kindly contact the Church Office, and we will happily provide you with the latest directory.***

NOTE: If your adult children have relocated to their own address, please inform us so we can update their details while keeping the family linked in our database. If they have moved and no longer wish to receive communications or are attending another church, we can remove them from our database.

PASTORAL ACTS

WEDDINGS

10/26/2024 Isaiah Charles Chuhuran and Emma Elizabeth Ammond

BAPTISMS

10/6/2024 Kamden Bean Karchon
son of Kolin and Chelsea Karchon

10/27/2024 Melanie Ann Krieger
daughter of Stephen and Meredith Krieger

FUNERALS

10/19/2024 Thomas Violante

10/24/2024 Carol Jean Frost

10/26/2024 Stephen Schurr

HOLY HOUSEKEEPING

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

REGULAR MONDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICES

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 7:00pm (Chapel)

REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00am (Chapel) and 9:00am/10:30am (Sanctuary)

December 1: Regular Worship Services
Special 100th Anniversary Kick-Off Coffee Hour Gathering

December 8: Regular Worship - 8:00am
Lessons & Carols - 9:00am and 10:30am
Children Bring and Sing - 10:30am

December 15: Regular Worship Services

December 22: Regular Worship - 8:00am
The Wonder of Christmas Cantata - 9:00am and 10:30am

December 24: Traditional Christmas Eve
Candlelight and Carols - 10:00am, 4:00pm, 8:00pm
Breakfast with Santa - after 10:00am service

December 29: Regular Worship

WESTMAPLE ENROLLMENT

We opened the doors on September 9th to 94 eager preschoolers and even more excited parents! As you may know, Westmaple has never advertised! All of our children come from parent recommendation/referral. I am convinced that it is because of our commitment and faithfulness to Jesus that Westmaple continues to prosper.

It is that time of year when we offer early enrollment for the 2025/2026 school year to members of Redeemer and returning Westmaple families. If you wish to enroll, please contact the director, **Patricia Raezler** via email or call her directly (westmaple@redeemberirmingham.org or 248.646.5155). **Pre-enrollment begins NOW and must be completed by December 18, 2024** or you will be placed on the bottom of the wait list. PLEASE do not delay! We have MANY returning families and we already have 26 new families on our waitlist!



THE TUESDAY MUSICALE OF DETROIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT & LUNCHEON

Join us for a festive holiday concert, presented by The Tuesday Musicale!

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Tuesday, December 10th - 10:30am**

The concert will be followed by lunch, for which you will need to make a reservation. You can reserve your spot by visiting The Tuesday Musicale's website (tuesdaymusicaleofdetroit.org - click the orange oval on the home page) or call 313.520.8663. **Deadline for reservations is Thursday, December 5th.**



REJOICE AND BE MERRY!

Come enjoy the Birmingham Concert Band's Holiday Concert!

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Sunday, December 15th - 3:00pm**

*Under The Direction Of Patrick Jensen
Celebrating 47 Years of Musical Excellence*



PATHWAYS GRIEF AND LOSS RECOVERY GROUP

We will not meet in December, but we will reconvene in the New Year! Our next meeting will take place the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the Town Square.

Come join us on **Wednesday, January 8th** to learn skills and acquire loving comfort and support while adjusting to your life change and the new journey God has set before you. Bring a friend, all are welcome! *For those who would like to get help with their grief and loss in a non-group setting, Dr. Pourcho is available to meet with you as a private counseling client.*

Any questions or to schedule an appointment, feel free to call **Dr. Sandy Pourcho** (248-568-6040), Redeemer's Resident Counselor.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

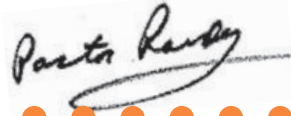
Congratulations to Westmaple Nursery School for collecting the most non-perishable food items (by weight) for our Thanksgiving Food Drive! Redeemer collected 538 pounds of food, while Westmaple collected a **whopping 784 pounds!** Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause to help feed those in need during the holidays!

HOLY HOUSEKEEPING

Continued from page 1.

In closing, as you go forward into this next season, remember that you go with your church family to love and support you always. From the first moment you walked through the doors of Redeemer, you became part of her history. More importantly, however, is that you are also part of her future.

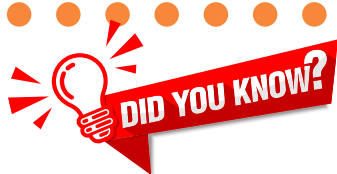
Merry Christmas!



NEW ARRIVALS AT THE REDEEMER LIBRARY!

Rejoice in the Good News of great joy! Don't let the hustle, bustle, and commercialism of the coming season overwhelm you and distract from the truly perfect gift to come. The library has resources to help you and your family spend meaningful time together this Advent season to learn about Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. They are too numerous to list here, so stop in and see the library displays!

NEW! The library now has a copy of the book referenced by Pastor Randy in his Veterans Day sermon! **Mission at Nuremberg** by **Tim Townsend** tells the story of LCMS Pastor Henry Gerecke who served as U.S. Army Chaplain ministering to the Nazi war criminals inside the Nuremberg Palace of Justice in 1945-1946 from the trial's beginning through their execution. This is a story of a humble, yet very strong man of God who saw, even in men who did vile things, human beings made in the image of God who needed the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE IN A CHURCH!

Back in 1851, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cleveland, OH became the first church in the United States to place a Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Reverend Henry Schwan began his tenure that year and, being of German descent, was used to a Christmas tree in his home and placed one in the church. It was decorated with candies, cookies, candles, and a beautiful star from Germany. He thought nothing of this but some folks were not happy, and word got out around town. "They are worshipping a shrub" at Zion! Reverend Schwan began to do research and found that in other Christian countries it was not uncommon to place a Christmas tree in sanctuary. So he did it again the next Christmas. The controversy died down, other churches put up trees, and Reverend Schwan would remain the pastor for 30 years.



FUN FACT: Zion Lutheran Church is the same church where Pastor Randy was baptized!



December 1

100th Anniversary Kick-Off

December 3

Advent by Candlelight

December 4

Board of Elders Meeting

December 8

Lessons and Carols
Holy Land Visitors
Langsford Men's Chorus
Christmas Concert

December 9

Angel Tree Bag & Sort Workshop

December 10

The Tuesday Musicale of Detroit
Christmas Concert & Luncheon
Christmas Whispers

December 11

Leadership Team Meeting

December 15

Young Adult Lunch
Birmingham Concert Band

December 22

Christmas Cantata

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship
Breakfast with Santa

December 25

Merry Christmas!

*Please visit the church website for a full list of events:
www.redeemberbirmingham.org*



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



January 1

Happy New Year!

January 5

Christmas Un-Decorating

January 8

Pathways

Leadership Team Meeting

January 9

Chicks with Sticks

January 15

Lunch and Worship

January 16

Chicks with Sticks

January 19

Young Adult Lunch

January 22

Board of Elders Meeting

January 23

Chicks with Sticks
Red Wings Faith Night

January 24

JAMS Game Night

January 25

Men's Breakfast

*Please visit the church website
for a full list of events:
www.redeemberirmingham.org*



DECORATE REDEEMER FOR CHRISTMAS!

CHANCEL AND TOWN SQUARE TREE TRIMMING!



Join us to decorate the Chancel and Town Square on **Saturday, November 30th at 9:00am**. We need strong men to help erect our 15-foot Christmas trees and a steady guy on the ladder for the topper. We need helpful hands with wreaths and roping, outdoor décor, candles and swags, and much more. Snacks are abundant and lunch will be served! Fellowship is great, and I would love to work alongside you! **Sign-up on the Town Square bulletin board or call Kitty**. See you there!

WHY'S IT CALLED THAT?!

A special afternoon of fellowship, unique information and food is planned by the Prime Timers group for **Sunday, February 16th from 2:00-5:00pm in the Great Room**. Our special, captivating guest presenter will be **Bailey Sisoy Moore**, owner of Detroit History Tours. Bailey was our speaker for an event in November 2023 and was extremely well received!

Did you ever wonder why it's called Woodward Avenue or how Belle Isle got its name or wander in the city asking yourself, "Why is that named that?" Bailey will help us explore the parks, public buildings, streets, and foods whose names are famous but whose stories have been lost to history. Following her presentation, we'll enjoy a chicken parmesan supper. All are welcome to join us for a great way to spend a winter Sunday afternoon! There is no charge - a freewill donation will be received. Please sign-up by February 10th on the Town Square bulletin board or call the Church Office. Questions? Contact **Gary Priskorn**.



RED WINGS FAITH NIGHT!

2025 KICK-OFF FOR REDEEMER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL EVENT AT LITTLE CAESAR'S ARENA ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD - HOSTED BY MEN'S MINISTRY!

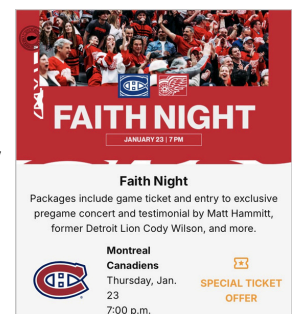
An inspirational pre-game concert by renowned Christian singer Matt Hammitt, Christian testimony by former Detroit Lions Cody Wilson, and more, followed by the Red Wings battling the Montreal Canadiens!

Doors for the concert open at 4:30pm with the hockey game following at 7:00pm. We have a block of upper bowl seats near mid-ice so we can enjoy the program and game together.

Tickets \$65.00 per person - checks payable to Redeemer with "Red Wings" in the memo line.

*For tickets or for more information,
contact Gary Priskorn (248.561.2641) or
Jon Duff (248.214.9037).*

We hope you can join us - GO WINGS!



**A GREAT
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT FOR
HOCKEY FANS!**

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

ANGEL TREE



ANGEL TREE TAGS ARE ON THE TREE!
 What happiness is in store for the residents of Grace Centers of Hope! We are serving people who are recovering from addiction, abuse and homelessness. Some have made it into the step-down program and almost ready for independence, others are hard at work getting healthy and sober. Each resident is allowed six wishes and most ask for practical things, except for the kids who want what all kids want...ear buds, tablets, teddy bears, Spiderman, and new shoes. Come on, Redeemer - let's share our blessings with those who have few and rejoice in our ability to do so!

Gifts are due back in on **Sunday, December 8th** and must have the tag taped to the package. Please include the receipt in case the item is not a fit. No gift cards or coupons as per requested by GHC.

Thank you to all of our elves for your help to prepare this year's tags!



Deb Wroe, Karen Rose, Linda Hauschalz, Ginny Schalm, Lynn Duerr, Jane Bacon, Tedi Collier and Crissy Bienkowski. Not shown: Bonnie Ernewein

SERVE AT FAMILY OF GOD

Redeemer partners with **Family of God (FOG)**, a Lutheran Church in southwest Detroit, that provides meals to those in need 6-days a week! YOU can help provide these meals in MANY different ways:

- Make bagged lunches + Prepare frozen meals**
- Deliver/serve a meal + Shop for items**
- Donate funds used to purchase supplies for meals**



Sign-up to help on the church website under the "Ways to Serve" box or on the Town Square bulletin board. Please contact **Laura Vowell** if you have questions or would like more information.

NOTE: If you are signing up on the website, there is a separate sign-up to sponsor a meal than there is to plan, shop, cook or serve the meal.
10

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR ELDERLY AND SHUT-INS



Calling all confirmation families and any interested Redeemer members! Christmas Card Project Packets are available in the West Entrance vestibule to sign-up and take home this Christmas season! Instructions and all materials are provided for you and your family members to sign cards, write a comforting message or Bible verse, and decorate the outside front of the envelope with a festive or spiritual picture. Drawings can be simple - a cross, a tree, or candy cane - or as detailed as you wish.

PLEASE - NO STAMPS AND DO NOT MAIL!

Return completed cards and extra materials in the same bag and put in the DROP BOX by December 8th!

All cards will be hand-delivered to care facilities in the Metro area. Your loving heart and giving spirit at this time of year will touch the hearts of so many elderly folks - a small reminder that they are not forgotten!

Please call **Leslie Whitfield** (248.330.8685) with any questions. With heartfelt gratitude, I thank you all!

ANGEL TREE GIFT SORTING

Elves are needed to sort and bag up all Angel Tree gifts!
 We meet **Monday, December 9th at 12:30pm!** Grace Centers of Hope has changed their procedures, so we will need people to be extra careful when sorting and adding the product tags to all gifts!

Please let Kitty know if you're able to help by signing-up on the clipboard in the box outside her office door. Thank you!



MANY THANKS!

Karen Rose and Leslie Whitfield made quick work of packaging the 47 hygiene kit donations for the Orphan Grain Train. Kits included, clippers, comb, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, towel, tissues, Band-Aids. Many thanks, Redeemer, for your continued support of such a wonderful organization!



CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAYS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Rev. Ronald Farah
The Study of Romans
All year after 9:00am service (Scheidt Room)

NEW MEMBER CLASS - Laura Vowell
Annually in the Fall

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - Nicole Olds
During 10:30am service (lower-level classrooms)

REDEEMER YOUTH GROUP (HIGH SCHOOL) -
Gia Scheidt & Eric Wisniewski
School year, 7:00-9:00pm (Youth Room)

TUESDAYS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Pastor Jimmy
Heroes of the Bible - ***ZOOM Available**
9:30am (Great Room)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Kitty Sweitzer
"Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table"
*6:30pm (Great Room) - *4th Tuesday starts at 6:00pm*

WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Gary Priskorn
The Study of Acts - ***ZOOM Available**
Year round, 6:45-7:30am (Great Room)

POSITIVE PARENTING -
Victoria Ilitch & Kristin Thompson
9:15-10:45am (Great Room)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES - Laura Vowell
6:00-8:00pm (various rooms)

CORE GROUP (RYG - HIGH SCHOOL) -
Gia Scheidt & Eric Wisniewski
6:00-8:00pm (Youth Room)

THURSDAYS

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY - Michael Banerian
First Thursday of Every Month - 6:30-8:00pm

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY - Andrea Schlak
The Study of Exodus
Thursdays, 9:00-11:00am (Great Room)
***BEGINS JANUARY 9TH!**

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

In-home gatherings are people committed to growing together spiritually, caring for and ministering to one another, reaching others with the love of Jesus and, ultimately, sharing life victories and challenges.

Talk to **Pastor Randy** if you are interested in joining or starting a Small Group!



EVENT SCHEDULE

*Redeemer
Young
Adults*

BIBLE STUDY: FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

MONTHLY SOCIAL EVENTS AND OUTINGS

CHURCH LUNCHES: FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AFTER 10:30 SERVICE

TEXT MICHAEL BANERIAN TO GET INVOLVED!
(248) 925-7125

For more information on a particular study, contact the names indicated or call the **Church Office** for further assistance.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Advent, the special weeks of preparation before Christmas, is a magical time of anticipation and excitement at Redeemer. The Birth of our Savior is highlighted with activities, spiritual reflection, and joyous celebrations. Right after Thanksgiving, the decorating begins. For decades, a joyous group has gathered to put up the 15-foot trees, wreaths, and garland in the Sanctuary. All the hallways and the Town Square are gleaming with the warm colors of red and green. The Chapel is also decorated with trees on which hang Chrismons. This twenty-year-old ministry was started by Corinne Chesna, who began creating delicate, white needlepoint ornaments honoring the memory of loved ones in the congregation who have passed.

It has been a long-standing tradition at Redeemer to have families come forward and light the candles on the Advent Wreath. Families volunteer to light the purple and pink candles, which are called the Bethlehem candle, the Shepherd's candle, the Angel candle, and the King's candle.

Choirs rehearse for months to present familiar Advent hymns and symphonic scales, such as the Christmas portion of The Messiah, and the popular "Lessons and Carols." Another highly anticipated event, the annual Christmas Pageant, features Sunday School children who rehearse weekly till the big performance, attracting excited parents, adoring grandparents, family members, and friends.



In the 1960's and 1970's, Redeemer women held a Christmas musicale and Silver Tea. The Birmingham Eccentric newspaper annually featured the event inviting ladies from the area to attend. Myrtle Wuggazer played the piano, Nancy Kochenderfer the organ, and our choir soloist provided the vocal compliment.

In preparation for Advent, one of the most popular events is "Advent By Candlelight," which welcomes over 450 members and guests annually. Redeemer women invite seven guests to join them for appetizers and desserts at beautifully decorated tables. From there, they are united in the Sanctuary for a lovely evening of singing, personal reflections, and worship as they prepare for the season and the coming birth of our Savior. The first Advent by Candlelight was an intimate affair in 1983 with a handful of

women attending the event directed by Marge Noettl. As you can see in the picture, Marge would decorate the room with Leslie Whitfield's grandmother's beautiful quilts. The time and talent of Redeemer members is amazing, as is the growth of this special event over the years!

To encourage creativity, Redeemer sponsors a Christmas Card Contest for the children of the congregation. From preschool age to 5th grade, each child can exercise their talents with a drawing featuring the story of Jesus' birth. Based on creativity, presentation, and theme, a winner is chosen, and their masterpiece is showcased on Redeemer's Christmas Card, which is sent out to every member of the church. Every child who submits a design receives a small prize, too.



Since 1985, our generosity of spirit has shone in programs like the "Angel Tree." Located in the Town Square area, the tree displays "Angel" tags bearing Christmas "Wish Lists" for the congregation. The lists first came from Oakland Community Services in Ferndale, a connection made from a beloved member and Ferndale City Manager, Jess Soltess, who now celebrates the Advent season with Jesus. More recently, the tags are from Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac. The children's "In-Gathering of Toys" from our Sunday School children supports several local agencies. In the 1990's, Redeemer sponsored an Alternative Gift Market. Gifts such as cows, sheep, and chickens could be purchased for the needy in other countries. In 1996, over \$6,000 in international gifts had been provided.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In 2018, church volunteers went to Camp Restore in Detroit and helped the children there with drawing and coloring Christmas pictures and cards while creating a lively party atmosphere. Camp Restore is one of Redeemer's major community restoration projects, building and restoring homes and neighborhoods in the North East Corridor.

In the years of the COVID pandemic, a "Live Nativity" was one of Redeemer's most creative events. Held outside on the church grounds, our members reenacted Biblical scenes for the congregation as they walked the grounds. Luckily, there was a real fire pit to warm the crowd as the temperatures dropped, giving an ode to the first chilly Christmas Eve.



Redeemer also provides a "light" for the community with our Nativity scene on the front lawn, the luminaries on the circle drive, and co-sponsoring the Nativity scene in Birmingham's Shain Park with Our Shepherd Lutheran Church and Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church since 2006.

Redeemer's gift of spreading the joy of the Advent season has lasted throughout the decades, leaving a mark in the community. Each year, a member donates buttons for the congregation to wear when they are out and about. The buttons proclaim the love of Jesus and the reason for the Christmas season!

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO REDEEMER?



I first came to Redeemer as David Mammel's girlfriend in 1986. As a lifelong member of Redeemer, David told me countless stories of his growing up in the church. Redeemer didn't disappoint. Meeting Pastor Duane for the first time was the best introduction I could have asked for. Not only was he kind and friendly, but he took the time to tell me about the service and communion and genuinely welcomed me. Because I wasn't Lutheran at the time, I remember being particularly pleased there was an outline that I could fill in during Pastor Duane's sermons! As the years went on, David and I were married in 1992 and our kids baptized in 1997 and 2000. I volunteered my time in Sunday School, Summer Kamp, VBS, and Altar Guild. Those initial feelings back in 1986 of warmth and love have not faded!



100TH ANNIVERSARY "IN MEMORIAM COFFEE HOURS"

Redeemer's Anniversary Historical Committee has been hard at work for over a year preparing for our centennial celebration! Throughout the upcoming year, you will see a rotating display of historical photos and documents commemorating our history; however, some of our history is extremely personal as you remember Redeemer members from your own family who are now in the glory of heaven. So that you can honor them in your own personal way, we have blocked many Sundays throughout the anniversary year for you to host a coffee hour in their memory. This is an opportunity to bring pictures and memorabilia to tell your story! If you have never hosted coffee hour before, Kim Davis will guide you through the process and help along the way. You may even want to consider hosting with another family!

The sign-up sheet and instructions will be available beginning December 1st during coffee hour. Questions? Contact Andrea Schlak (schlakandrea@gmail.com).

WE ARE WRITING A BOOK!

Guess what Redeemer? You are writing a book! Oh, yes you are! You can find submission forms around the church. Write 250 words or less about how you came to Redeemer. Include a favorite scripture at the bottom of the page, and our little committee (reserving the right to edit) will put your journey on paper to create a beautiful book for our 100th Anniversary celebration here at church. Your book "Through These Doors" will be a history of our people who found a spiritual home in this place. What motivated you? Anyone walk with you? Journey difficult, easy, or both? What did you gain? Lose? Tell us your story!



Search your past, your heart, and memory, and let us know how you became part of Redeemer's history! Contact Miss Kitty with questions.

Deadline for submission January 17, 2025!

MINISTRIES AT WORK

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Men of all ages are invited to join us on **Wednesday mornings from 6:45-7:30am in the Great Room** or via Zoom, as we continue to study the book of Acts. The emphasis of this important book is literally the fulfillment of the Great Commission, describing the founding of the Christian Church and the spread of its message to the Roman Empire. You are invited to join us on Wednesday morning for fellowship and spiritual growth - and some coffee cake, juice, and coffee! Contact **Gary Priskorn** for further information.

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 25th or Wednesday, January 1st - enjoy the holidays with your loved ones!*



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



Adults and youth are welcome to join us for our next Fellowship Breakfast on **Saturday, January 25th beginning at 8:00am in the Great Room** with a hearty breakfast. Following the meal, we will hear the story of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) shared by **Tim Morton**, the area director for FCA in Oakland County. The FCA "seeks to make disciples through their strategy of engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes to know and grow in Christ and to lead others to do the same." Tim speaks of the need to energize young people in faith in a similar fashion to that of athletic practice! It promises to be an informative and motivating morning for people of all ages! **Please sign-up on the bulletin board located in the Town Square by January 20th.**

Questions? Contact Gary Priskorn.



WEDNESDAY LUNCH & WORSHIP

There is no Lunch & Worship scheduled for December, but we'll resume on **Wednesday, January 15th, in the Great Room at 12:00pm** with a delicious meal prepared by Michele Margosian. Following the meal, we'll hold a **worship service at 1:00pm in the Chapel** that will include Holy Communion. Please call the Church Office by January 13th if you plan to join us for lunch. If you are in need of transportation, let the Church Office know and we'll do our best to assist. Contact **Gary Priskorn** with any questions. Looking forward to having you with us!

SENIOR'S MINISTRY



CHRISTMAS JOURNEYS

Advent is a joyous time of year - the promise of Christmas coming, the preparations and activities, the lights, colors, and the candles all create a glorious welcome for our Savior's birth. But the music sets the tone for the sweet spirit of peace and beauty - the strings of God's heart. If there were no music, some might say we would have no passage to the throne of God. Christmas hymns are indeed the "word journeys" which take us near to the hem of Heaven. Sometimes, it's fun on a busy day to take a "time out" and not only listen to your favorite hymn but render the words on your heart. Although these are not the real verses, they tell a story about each hymn.

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear," when God so distant sent His Son so near. He came to save a world so blind, so rebellious, so unkind. He wore no armor, had no sword, no royal estate could He afford. No earthly riches would He bear, no priestly robes or crowns to wear. Pure Love, pure Truth He would declare, to save a world that didn't care. And yet the Light He brought to save was our Salvation from the grave. He *"Came Upon A Midnight Clear,"* our Savior with us, forever here.

"What Child Is This?" three Kings might say, "Is this the Savior here to stay? We've come from lands distant and far, we studied the sky and the falling Star. We knew at once when the Angel came, our Christ in the manger came to reign. Behold His beauty, His magnificent grace, the glory shining upon His face. We came to worship, to bring Him gifts, the tiny babe God would lift high above the angels' wings, to share the gifts Jesus brings."

Your Faithful Friends Ministry wishes you a wondrous Advent and all the sweet, sacred blessings of Jesus' birth. Merry Christmas to All!

Please contact Gary Priskorn or Pam Tyndall for more information on "Faithful Friends."



MINISTRIES AT WORK

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Advent by Candlelight

**"Keeping Christmas"
Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00pm**

Would you like to listen to beautiful music, hear personal testimony from other women, eat wonderful appetizers and tasty desserts, share an evening with friends and family....? Then this is an evening for you! Advent by Candlelight is an almost 40-year tradition here at Redeemer, growing from a few to many who want to be immersed in hope, peace, love and joy. If you would like to attend, let Kitty know and she will put you on the guest list and find you a seat at a table. **Please let Kitty know as soon as possible if you'd like to attend** - tables are pre-reserved so seating will be at a premium and it is difficult to seat drop-ins. We hope to see you there!



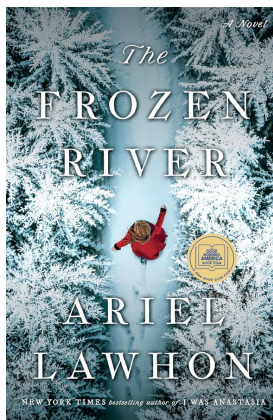
Christmas Whispers

Our booster shot, our preventive action, our cherished Christmas activity is to gather together at the **home of Erin Mortenson on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00pm** for appetizers, desserts, refreshments for the body and the soul, along with fellowship for everyone. We share favorite stories, poetry, music, laughter, love, and joy with each other as we move around the circle waiting for each anecdote and personal messages from our guests. It is easy! Just pick out a Christmas memory, story, incident, and share it with the rest of us. Bring an appetizer, finger dessert or beverage (**please sign-up on the Town Square bulletin board**) and join in the true meaning of Christmas and all it promises. See you there!

***Kitty could use help taking extra chairs over to the house and back to church...
Let her know you can help!**

**"Love isn't love until it's given away."
Watch for mission projects dedicated to our
100th Anniversary!!**

Women's Book Group



Women's Book Group wishes you a peaceful and meaningful December and will not meet again until **January 24, 2025**, at which time we will read **"Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon**. We will share a short synopsis in January's Lamp.

In the meantime, we have a great lineup of books to enjoy in the new year! Here is a list for the upcoming year...

- "The Saints of Whistle Grove" by Katie Schuermann
- "A Thousand Tomorrows" by Karen Kingsbury
- "Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution" by Ji-Li-Jiang
- "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post: A Novel" by Allison Pataki
- "The President and the Freedom Fighter" by Brian Kilmeade
- "Hang the Moon" by Jeanette Walls
- "Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe
- "8 Miraculous Months in a Malayan Jungle" by Donald Humphrey
- "The Water Keeper" by Charles Martin

Thanks to Stacey Rolf for her wonderful leadership!



Chicks with Sticks

Our fearless leader, **Beth Hamada**, has gone to heaven and sleeps in the arms of Jesus. She was so inspirational, unique and talented. Even while she lay ill, she knit hats for the homeless and when her family brought them in, her team of women finished them off, making them ready, just in time for the cold weather. Beth was prolific in her joy and love of and for others and truly served her Lord with all her heart.

We will continue to carry on the blessing of work Beth began. **Janet Kletzli and Jan Endress** have stepped up to be co-captains of this ministry and will not miss a step. Thanks to you, Father God, for Beth and the women who follow her! We are indeed blessed.

Chicks will meet on **Thursday, December 5th and 19th in the Library at 1:00pm**. New yarn coming, and there is interest in crocheting, which has taken Europe by storm. We know how - come and learn! See you there!

MINISTRIES AT WORK



CHRISTMAS BRING AND SING!

BRING a toy for children in need and **SING** Christmas songs - taking place on **Sunday, December 8th** during the **10:30am** service. Kids of all ages will process into worship with an unwrapped toy to give to kiddos in need. Then, we're performing a couple of Christmas songs – there's a role for every age group! **COSTUMES ARE PROVIDED!** Please sign-up on the church website. Contact **Laura Vowell** or **Nicole Olds** with questions.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

Join us for a fun meal of pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, bagels, and more! PLUS... a visit from Santa! Join us on Christmas Eve -

Tuesday December 24th - in the Gym, following the 10:00am worship service.

Please sign-up via the church website or on the Town Square bulletin board! Contact **Pastor Randy** with questions or for more information!



FAMILY ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING



It has been a long-standing tradition at Redeemer for families to participate in our Advent worship services by lighting the Advent wreath candles together. **Sundays in Advent (December 1st, 8th, and 15th), we need a family to light the Advent wreath candles during 9:00am and 10:30am services.** Families of any shape and size can do this - young families, couples, parents with their adult children, and beyond! If your family is interested, please sign-up via the church website. Contact **Laura Vowell** with questions or for more information.

SAVE THE DATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY VOW RENEWAL!



Married couples of all ages are invited to join us for a vow renewal on **Saturday, February 8th!** Ceremony will be in Redeemer's Sanctuary with dinner and dancing to follow at the Auburn Hills Marriot! Details coming soon! Contact **Laura Vowell** with questions.

POSITIVE PARENTING

Come and join Positive Parenting on Wednesday morning! We are a group of moms that discuss topics relating to family-life, parenting and motherhood. We explore a wide-range of books and ideas throughout the year and enjoy conversation, prayer and community with one another. **We meet weekly on Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:45am in the Great Room.** Nursery care is provided and is available on a drop-in basis for any younger children. Each session stands alone - there is no need to purchase books, or read ahead of attending. In December, we will have a lighter schedule.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ***TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3:** Advent by Candlelight
(*NOTE: There is no class on Wednesday the 4th!)
- **DECEMBER 11:** Christmas Service Project

Please reach out to **Kristin Thompson** or **Victoria Ilitch** with any questions.

DECEMBER Lamp

MINISTRIES AT WORK

RYG HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



2025 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

North Carolina, March 22-28, 2025

Open to all high-schoolers!

Applications Located Outside Gia/Eric's Office

DUE DECEMBER 15, 2024!

Join us in serving the Asheville-area after Hurricane Helene in doing hurricane relief and relational ministry with hurricane victims.



FAMILY OF GOD



RYG cooks and serves at Family of God Soup Kitchen the 2nd Monday of every month - join us in helping others!

December 9th

January 13th

**Meet in the kitchen at 5:00pm and bring money for dinner!*

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 1: Youth Room Decorating, 7:00-9:00pm

Meet in the Youth Room

December 3rd: Advent by Candlelight, 6:00-9:30pm

Girls Only!

December 4th: Core Group, 6:00-8:00pm

Meet in the Youth Room

December 8th: White Elephant, 7:00-9:00pm

Meet in the Youth Room

December 9th: FOG, 5:00-8:00pm

Meet in the Kitchen

December 11th: Core Group, 6:00-8:00pm

Meet in the Youth Room

December 15th: Christmas Heart of Worship, 7:00-9:00pm

Meet in the Youth Room

***MISSION TRIP APPLICATIONS DUE!**

December 18th: Core Group, 6:00-8:00pm

Meet in the Youth Room

**RYG/Core Groups will not meet the weeks of December 22nd or December 29th. MERRY CHRISTMAS*



"redeemer_y00th"

ALWAYS

CHECK INSTAGRAM

FOR ANY

SCHEDULE CHANGES

JAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

JAMS GAME NIGHT

Save the date for **Friday, January 24th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm!** We'll do lots of fun things... Aliens in the Church, dodgeball, ice cream sundaes, pizza, and MORE! Stay tuned for details and permission slip! Contact **Laura Vowell** with questions - we hope all middle schoolers can join us!

MINISTRIES AT WORK

MUSIC MINISTRY



All the wonderful music ministry groups at Redeemer are back in full swing! Redeemer's Music Ministry offers a place for everyone - experienced or novice, choral or instrumental. If you're interested in singing or playing for the glory of God, please join us!

CHANCEL CHOIR: ADULT ONLY

The Chancel Choir sings at our Sunday morning worship services and seasonal festival services to enhance the worship experience. The Chancel Choir provides opportunities for those who enjoy singing everything from classic anthems to modern settings in a traditional, contemporary, spiritual or gospel style. The Choir practices each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00pm in the music room.

Steve SeGraves - stevensegraves@gmail.com

REDEEMER PRAISE

The church's praise team, Redeemer Praise, sings and plays on the third Sunday of the month at the 9:00am and 10:30am worship services and during summer 10:30am services. It provides opportunities for those who enjoy singing or playing wonderful arrangements of contemporary Christian music. The Praise team meets Sunday mornings from September to May at 8:00am in the sanctuary, and in the summer at 9:00am in the Choir Room.

Steve SeGraves - stevensegraves@gmail.com

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir is made up of children ages 6-14 years of age. These musical children sing on special events during the church year, mainly at Christmas time and generally at the 10:30am worship service. Rehearsal information to be announced.

Nancy Lesinski (248.709.3040) or Nicole Olds

REDEEMER BRASS

Our Brass Ensemble plays on the second Sunday of each month at the 9:00am and 10:30am services, and on special Sundays throughout the year. Participation is open to any brass player who can play easy to moderately challenging pieces. Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary on Sundays at 11:30am after the 10:30am worship service.

Pastor Jimmy Greenwalt

REDEEMER RINGERS: ADULT BELL CHOIR

This group brings the unique and beautiful sound of bells to our worship services, sometimes joining with the Chancel Choir, Redeemer Brass, or other featured instrumentalists. The Redeemer Ringers usually play on the fourth Sunday of each month and they rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm in the hand bell room.

James Compton (248.396.7635)

The Wonder of Christmas

On **Sunday, December 22nd**, the Chancel Choir and Children's Choir will be joined by a full orchestra of professional musicians from the Detroit area, as together they present *The Wonder of Christmas*, an amazing Christmas Cantata by composer David Hamilton, who is the main musical arranger for the Michael W. Smith Christmas concert tours.

Selections in the Cantata include "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "African Noel," "I Wonder As I Wander," "The Wexford Carol," and several other familiar Christmas carols. In fact, a portion of the work invites the congregation to sing along with the choirs and orchestra.

If you have been looking for an opportunity to invite a friend to Redeemer, this may be the perfect time to extend that invitation. Our beautiful sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas and filled with wonderful music of the season in praise of the Christ child!



December Concerts in our Sanctuary

Redeemer will host a number of groups and musical performances in the Sanctuary this holiday season!

Lessons and Carols (during Sunday worship)

Sunday, December 8th - 9:00am and 10:30am

Langsford Men's Chorus Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8th - 4:00pm

The Tuesday Musicale of Detroit Christmas Concert & Luncheon

Tuesday, December 10th - 10:30am

Birmingham Concert Band

Sunday, December 15th - 3:00pm

Silver Lake Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 21st - 7:30pm

Christmas Cantata (during Sunday worship)

Sunday, December 22nd - 9:00am and 10:30am

COUNSELING CORNER

I recently watched the Netflix documentary called “Martha” (Stewart). It left me feeling incredibly sad. Such a tragedy. This highly successful and driven women had amassed a multi-billion-dollar fortune and really had little to no relationships intact (that were not on her payroll at least).

She is the truism personified, “it’s lonely at the top.” Martha’s father held her to an extremely high standard in the home growing-up, and he was punitive if the performance he expected was not attained. According to this movie, Martha divorced after 30 years, and it is reported that her husband felt he could never really do anything right. She picked at him constantly. He reportedly had many affairs and finally filed for divorce. She required unrealistic perfection from everyone in her life - from employees to friends to family.

Sadly, at the end of the interview, she finally admitted that “imperfection is not so bad after all.” I actually think there is beauty in imperfection and beauty in ALL of us. We ALL are not perfect and never will be until the “Day of Christ” (Philippians 1:6)

So, my point is, how many Martha-like people do we have out there? Those who pick at their spouse, children, or others critically, continually, or who find themselves in a state of depression because not even they themselves can perform to their own unrealistic standard? This can and usually will damage any emotional connection they have with loved ones.

Please allow me to make some suggestions to help us this holiday season:

1. Christmas and the holiday season, in general, is very stressful because there are parties to attend and host, gifts to buy and wrap, cooking and baking...and the list goes on! The pressure we put on ourselves during this time can be unbearable. Why not LOWER the bar on yourself and others? JUST DO LESS!
2. Take some things OFF your list. Yes, you can do it! It works and no one will notice anyway. I promise. Been there. It’s very freeing!
3. RELAX and be mindful every morning of the real Reason for the season - Jesus. Please try to say The Lord’s Prayer before you get out of bed. God does not want you to be stressed, but instead, focus on Him. Do not let the evil one use stuff and busyness to distract you from honoring Jesus on His Birthday.
4. When you are tempted to be critical (of others OR yourself), immediately REVERSE and turn it into a complement. Watch their face.

Now, isn’t it worth it when you see how much better you and your loved ones feel? You are walking the talk of a true Christian, showing Jesus to others.

I wish you a very Peaceful, Joyous, and Merry Christmas!
Dr. Sandy Pourcho



COUNSELING CENTER

Redeemer Counseling Center is open and our counselors are available to address your counseling needs! Call to set-up an appointment soon!

Sandy Pourcho, PHD
248.568.6040

Rev. Ron Farah, Pastoral Counseling
248.642.3137



DECEMBER

BIBLE READING PLAN

1
Daniel 8:1-27
1 John 2:1-17
Psalm 120:1-7
Proverbs 28:25-26

2
Daniel 9:1-11:1
1 John 2:18-3:6
Psalm 121:1-8
Proverbs 28:27-28

3
Daniel 11:2-35
1 John 3:7-24
Psalm 122:1-9
Proverbs 29:1

4
Daniel 11:36-12:13
1 John 4:1-21
Psalm 123:1-4
Proverbs 29:2-4

5
Hosea 1:1-3:5
1 John 5:1-21
Psalm 124:1-8
Proverbs 29:5-8

6
Hosea 4:1-5:15
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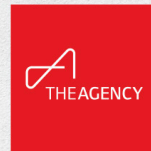
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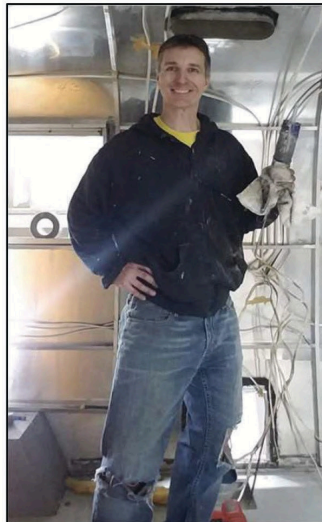
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