

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



THE LAMP

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

**FEBRUARY
2025**

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FROM THE PASTOR

"Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." (Genesis 2:19-23)



Adams words don't sound so romantic! Don't you think you would hear him say something like, "Wow! You are the most beautiful woman I have ever seen!" If he were to say those words, it would be true. Eve is the only woman around at this time! Or he could have said, "I like your outfit!" Or he could have said, "You don't have a belly button either!"

Let's not forget that romantic love, too, is a gift from God. The New Testament words for love are philios (brotherly love), agape, (divine love), and eros (romantic love). Eros love, as the other types of love, are gifts from God.

Valentine's Day could easily be a Christian holiday. I think most of us know the story behind the celebration of romantic love. Valentine is the patron Saint of lovers as legend has it. He was a priest who performed secret marriage ceremonies in Rome because it was thought that unmarried men make better soldiers. One night, Valentine was caught, thrown in jail, and sentenced to die. Many young people came to the jail to visit him. They would throw flowers and notes up to his cell window. According to legend, he developed a friendship with the jailer's daughter. Before his execution, she found the note which he had signed, "With Love from Your Valentine." Yes, its legend, but every legend has roots in some historic truth.

"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned." (Song of Solomon 8:6-7)

Happy Valentine's Day, Redeemer!

Pastor Randy

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

1800 West Maple Road • Birmingham, MI 48009

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
Carrie Morris - Office Coordinator	ext. 114
Jamie Thompson - Office Coordinator	ext. 118
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

DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Attendance Totals	2024	2023
Worship	506	365
Bible Class	126	117
Sunday School	25	23
Monthly Attendance Totals	2024	2023
Communion	906	1037
Visitors	72	70
Income and Expenses	2024	2023
Income Received	\$268,443	\$230,988
Budget Requirements	\$258,911	\$247,876
General Fund Expenses	\$188,427	\$174,037
YTD Fiscal-Year Income	\$833,470	\$797,120
YTD Fiscal Year Expenses	\$747,558	\$671,728

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Christ's Life, and Love, and Light

**“Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height
May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.” (LSB 788)**

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ’s servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

**“May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.”**

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ’s love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

**Credit LCMS Stewardship Newsletter*



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 for February
are available around the building.**

FEBRUARY Lamp

IN REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION



In Memory

GIVE A MEMORIAL GIFT

**Donations made to the Memorial Fund in memory
of Carolyn Lindow**

Patricia Raezler

**Donations made to the Memorial Fund in memory
of Hans Maser**

Kris Leonard

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

Loving God, touch our hearts, we pray.
Stir our imagination, rekindle our faith,
and renew our hope. And so, may new dreams
and new visions be born in our lives.
God of hope, light a new flame in our hearts.
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

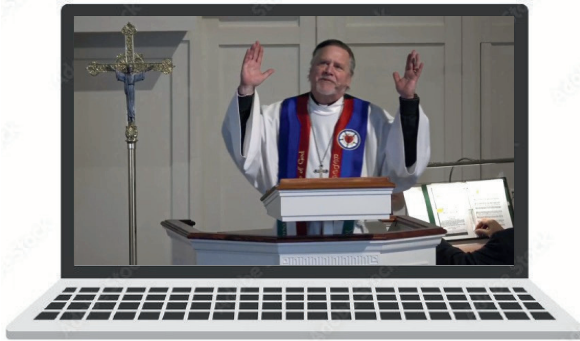
12/14/2024 Ellie Jayne Raezler
daughter of Michael and Courtney Raezler

FUNERALS

12/12/2024 Joseph Lawrence Flack, Jr.
12/13/2024 Carolyn Lindow



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!

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.

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)!

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.

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.

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!



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. Please contact **Crissy Bienkowski** with questions or for more information (crissybienkowski@gmail.com).



HOLY HOUSEKEEPING

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

February 12

March 12

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETINGS

March 26

May 28



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.

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.



WOMEN INVESTING IN WOMEN®



Join us at our spring iZosh Event, scheduled on Friday, April 11th!

We will be joined by guest speaker **Abadir M. Ibrahim**, Associate Director of the Human Rights Program (HRP) at Harvard Law School. Dr. Ibrahim's research focuses on African approaches to human rights while his broader research interests encompass the intersections between global human rights normative structures, as well as non-Western cultural/religious institutions and traditions. His academic and legal work focuses on African countries, especially his home country of Ethiopia, where he studies different aspects of associational life, social movements, and nonprofit organizations.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon!



PREPARING FOR LENT AND LENTEN MEALS!

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th and we need YOUR help!

Grab your family or some friends and sign-up to host a Lenten lunch or dinner! You can sign-up via the church website or the Town Square bulletin board. Contact **Kim Davis (248.613.4200)** with questions or for more information. If you don't feel comfortable planning a whole meal, you can sign-up to be a helper!

HOLY HOUSEKEEPING



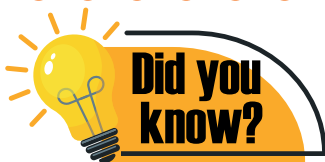
LIBRARY LIGHTS

Happy February! As we settle into winter and look for things to do to occupy our time on cold winter days and nights, look no further than the Redeemer Library! Whether you are looking for a Bible Study - like **Knowing Who You Are in Christ** by Joyce Meyer, a non-fiction book about Captain Scott Smiley, the U.S. Army's first blind active duty officer - or a devotional for yourself or your child - like **Uncovering the Love of Jesus - A Lent Devotional** by Asheritah Civciv or **God's Little Devotional Book (for Boys or for Girls)** - the Redeemer Library has a plethora of options. The Library is open when the church building is and all you need to do is to sign the check-out card in the back of your item. Specific instructions are on the desk, and it's an easy process.

CHECK OUT OUR NEWEST BOOKS!

In the youth section, you'll find **Brave Heroes and Bold Defenders: 50 True Stories of Daring Men of God** and **Courageous World Changers: 50 True Stories of Daring Women of God**, both by Shirley Raye Redmond. These books each include 50 short biographies about women or men who use their God-given talents to change the world and live a life filled with faith in action.

In the **NEW** section on the spinning rack by the circulation desk, you will find Redeemer's March Book Club selection, **The Saints of Whistle Grove** by Katie Schuermann. What happens to a community when the church that brings them together closes its doors after 150 years? Told through the voices of generations past and present, **The Saints of Whistle Grove** follows the journey of a son in search of his mother, a daughter in need of connection, a family without a home, and the cemetery that brings them all together.



OUR VERY OWN "BEACON OF HOPE"



Did you know that our Sanctuary chandelier will be lit all-day - **EVERY day!** - for our entire 100th Anniversary Celebration?!

Tom and Brenda Boyce have graciously sponsored the lighting of our beautiful chandelier in loving memory of their son, John, and all other children who are now held in the arms of Jesus in their heavenly home.

The story of our chandelier, written by Brenda, can be found in the Town Square. Be sure to take one home to read!



February 2

RYG Mission Trip
Orientation Meeting

February 4

Prime Timer's Committee
Planning Meeting

February 5

Pathways

February 6

Chicks with Sticks

February 8

100th Anniversary
Vow Renewal

February 11

Soup's On!
Cooking with Donna Hollis

February 12

Leadership Team Meeting

February 13

The Birmingham Musicale
Choral Ensemble Concert

February 16

Why's It Called That?!
Dinner and Guest Speaker
Prime Timer Event

February 19

Lunch and Worship

February 20

Chicks with Sticks

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



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



March 1

Rummage Sale Intake Day

March 2

Faithful Friends
Enrichment Event

March 4

Pathways

March 5

Ash Wednesday

March 6

Chicks with Sticks

March 6-7

Rummage Sale Prep Days

March 7-9

Rummage Sale

March 9

Rummage Sale Clean-Up

March 12

Leadership Team Meeting

March 13

The Birmingham Musicale
Choral Ensemble Concert

March 16

Confirmand Led Church Services

March 20

Chicks with Sticks

March 22-28

RYG North Carolina Mission Trip

March 26

Board of Elders Meeting

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



100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TOUR!



**TOUR PICTURESQUE LANCASTER, PA
AND EXPERIENCE THE SERENE
DUTCH COUNTRYSIDE!
AUGUST 12-15, 2025 (4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS)**

This trip is highlighted with a live performance of "NOAH" at the SIGHT & SOUND MILLENNIUM THEATRE! Experience one of the Bible's most incredible stories, live on stage using captivating special effects, beautiful music, and extraordinary sights and sounds as we watch Noah and his family faithfully follow God's instructions despite difficult odds. Come aboard with us to witness this remarkable, once-in-a-lifetime voyage with Noah, his family, and God's most creative and unique passenger manifests ever!
Perfect for families, young & "young at heart" alike!

"You do not want to be left behind! Climb on board; IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN!"

Details of the "CELEBRATION BUS TOUR" are located on the Town Square bulletin board. Registration information, cost, trip itinerary, and other details are posted and available on flyers and the tour posters around Redeemer.

**An informational gathering will be held in the
Great Room on Sunday, February 2nd during coffee hour.
Please attend if you are interested in traveling with us.**

**PLEASE NOTE: LIMITED CAPACITY (52) SEATS AVAILABLE, FIRST COME-FIRST
SERVED (BASED ON REGISTRATION + DEPOSIT).
SIGN-UP SHEET FOR CONTACT & LEVEL OF INTEREST ONLY!**

Questions? Please call Leslie Whitfield at 248-330-8685.

SOUP'S ON!



**Find your way to Redeemer's Great Room on Tuesday,
February 11th for a round of instruction and soup
tasting with our very own Donna Hollis!**

Donna's plan includes two soups for your tasting pleasure, a gourmet salad, and a few surprises as only Donna can promise. We will begin promptly at **6:00pm** - snacks will be provided to pacify your appetite while you wait for your soup. Finger dessert will follow. Sign-up sheet is on the Town Square bulletin board - please join us!

*A free will donation will be accepted at the door.
Contact Miss Kitty with any questions.*

WHY'S IT CALLED THAT?!

A special afternoon of fellowship, unique information, and a delicious meal of chicken parmesan 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 supper together. 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**.



RUMMAGE SALE

REDEEMER'S RUMMAGE SALE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Proceeds will benefit the high school mission trip to North Carolina & Redeemer's "Sacred Space" fund!

Please consider supporting the Rummage Sale in one (or more!) of the following ways:

- **DONATE ITEMS FOR THE SALE:** We will be accepting clothing and accessories, electronics, housewares, pictures, décor, books, toys, small working appliances, sporting goods, furniture, and much more! Donations are tax deductible, and receipts will be available during intake.

You can drop off donations in the Gym at the following days/times:

- Saturday, March 1st: 9:00am-1:00pm
- Thursday, March 6th: 9:00am-6:00pm

We **cannot accept** non-flat screen televisions/computer monitors, mattresses/box springs, large household appliances, textbooks, large musical instruments, weapons, large games or play sets, hazardous materials, fax machines/old printers, medical supplies, outdated skis, exercise machines, cribs, car seats, large wall units/entertainment centers, or large industrial metal desks.

We will be **picking up larger furniture items** from homes on Saturday, March 1st. If you have any larger furniture items that you would like to donate but are unable to bring in yourself, please **contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemberirmingham.org or 248.644.4010 x121)** by Tuesday, February 25th to be added to the pick-up schedule (exclusions may apply).

Please keep in mind that **all donations must be in sell-able condition**. When donating clothing, please help us by labeling the bags (i.e. women's, children's, etc.).

- **HELP WITH SET-UP:** Please consider stopping by to help on Thursday, March 6th (9:00am-8:00pm) and/or Friday, March 7th (9:00am-4:00pm). **Michele Margosian** will be available to guide you to an area of need!
- **SHOP AT THE SALE:** We have three great opportunities for you to shop the Rummage Sale!
 - EARLY BIRD SALE: Friday, March 7th from 6:00-8:00pm**
- Get the first pick! Donation of \$5/adult will be received.
 - GENERAL SALE: Saturday, March 8th from 9:00am-3:00pm**
- Come find some hidden treasures!
 - BAG SALE: Sunday, March 9th from 12:00-2:00pm**
- \$5/bag of clothing and accessories + HALF-OFF all other items!
- **HELP WITH CLEAN UP:** Join us for "POWER HOUR" (Sunday, March 9th from 2:30-3:30pm) to help bag and box unsold items for Goodwill and clean-up the rooms used for the sale! It's only ONE HOUR of your time!
- **SPREAD THE WORD:** Please encourage family and friends to donate items and shop at the sale to help support our missions!

For any general questions or concerns, please contact Michele Margosian.

Cell: 248.515.1282 - Home: 248.855.3694 - mmargosian@sbcglobal.net

NEEDED: BAGS & HANGERS FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE!

Please save bags (paper/plastic grocery bags, big shopping bags, etc.) and hangers - they are needed for the sale! If you have any that you would like to donate, please put them outside Laura Vowell's office!



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

FEBRUARY IS MISSIONS MONTH!

During Coffee Hour in February, we are highlighting some of the many missions Redeemer serves! Stop by to talk to us and learn more about these missions and how YOU can help support them!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND: GRACE CENTERS OF HOPE

Redeemer has sustained a loving, caring ministry for more than 30 years with **Grace Centers of Hope** by rehabbing houses in Little Grace Village, creating and running men's and women's clothing closets, working in the pantry, and helping the residents with gifts for Christmas through the Angel Tree. We are looking forward to a continued bright future with Grace and their outreach to the addicted, abused and homeless. God bless GCH!

Contact: *Kitty Sweitzer (misskitty@redeemberirmingham.org)*



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH: CARE NET PREGNANCY CENTER

Care Net Pregnancy Centers are located in Berkley and Detroit. They serve the community by assisting women who are facing unplanned pregnancies by providing free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds to confirm pregnancy, options discussion, and various resources to support women through their journey. Care Net is a non-profit medical clinic, so all of their care is at no cost to the women. Redeemer supports Care Net financially, by making "Bags of Love" for the women, and by providing volunteers to work directly in the center.

Contact: *248.545.6411 - info@carenetberkleydetroit.org*



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH: CAMP RESTORE DETROIT & FAMILY OF GOD

Camp Restore Detroit is a ministry serving in the 9th Precinct of Detroit. Their goal is to partner with the community to restore that neighborhood in Detroit. They do this by connecting Block Clubs and community leaders with volunteers. By supporting all the good things already happening in our community, they know we can all work together to continue restoring the 9th Precinct to a beautiful and growing neighborhood. Redeemer supports Camp Restore financially and by providing volunteers during their workdays.

Contact: *Erin Springer (erin@camprestore.org)*



Family of God (FOG) is a LCMS church in southwest Detroit who service the people in the area who are in need. In addition to worship and Bible Study, FOG provides a variety of services, including: serving hot meals (6-days a week); passing out bagged lunches (twice a week); hosting Narcotics Anonymous; offering pregnancy/infancy care (Luke Clinic); and giving summer field trips to local children. Redeemer partners with FOG and provides two meals each month. We also periodically make bagged lunches, too.

Contact: *Laura Vowell (laura@redeemberirmingham.org)*



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH: iZOSH

iZosh is an organization of women dedicated to the economic empowerment of women globally who are living in extreme poverty. By giving grants and micro-loans to these women, iZosh helps them to lift themselves out of extreme poverty and reduce the risk of oppression and exploitation in their lives. Redeemer hosts two iZosh events each year.

Contacts: *Therese Scheidt or Christie Hurst (izosh.birmingham@gmail.com)*



CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAYS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Rev. Ronald Farah
The Study of Romans
**Cancelled until further notice!*

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
Moses and The Book of Exodus
9:30-11:00am (Great Room)

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 LUNCHESES: 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

"Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:19



For decades, Redeemer has heard the mission call and actively lived the lyrics of a beloved hymn, "Here I Am, Lord, Send me."

By 1963, women from Redeemer, Our Shepherd, and Ascension Lutheran Churches hosted the World's Fair of Missions. The Fair represented both local and international missions of the Lutheran Missouri Synod. An African hut, rickshaw rides, an Armed Services Commission, and samples of ethnic food and clothing were featured in classrooms, halls, and fellowship areas.

In 1965, during our 40th Anniversary celebration, members could express their gratitude with a "special offering" often used for building projects or debt pursuance; however, the Church Council and the Planning Committee decided to search externally for outside interests who might better benefit from these "special offering" gifts.

Riverside Lutheran Church in Detroit was selected for financial support for its future Youth Village construction. The Reverend David Eberhard was Pastor at Riverside and worked with Pastors Ted and Duane Wuggazer on this important partnership. The Youth Village was to provide housing and guidance for boys aged 17-19 who lacked parental discipline and were potentially bound for serious trouble. Redeemer pledged \$50,000 over three years, which was met with an additional pledge of another \$9,700 the fourth year.



Our Women's Guild heeded Westmaple Preschool Principal Myrtle Wuggazer's call for much needed furniture, bedding, and home goods to furnish the Youth Village, along with equipment for meal preparation. Our Young Marrieds Group held an art festival on Redeemer property with all proceeds going to Riverside Youth Village. To commemorate, Reverend Duane Wuggazer noted, "For we have learned that in God's sight the greatest moment in life is when we say YES to another's need; and the tragic moment is when we pass by unheeding."

In 1965, St. Louis Seminary students were asked about the most outstanding Inner City-Suburban parish relationship in the country. Over 60% of the responses named Riverside and Redeemer as that partnership! Dallas, St. Louis, and New York newspapers named Redeemer, "the Congregation that gave the \$50,000 donation, even though it was in debt and had plans for future expansions."

Redeemer's mission work had only just begun. By 1977, Redeemer was recognized as the top contributing congregation in the Missouri Synod for our substantial financial support of Valparaiso University!

By 1980, an opportunity arose to sponsor a Laotian refugee family. Chandy Phommarath, "Chanhom" his wife, and their two sons, Keo and Sisu, had been in a refugee camp in Thailand for a year, hoping to come to the United States. Redeemer members Jack and Ruth Parish donated a home, and other members, including the Fisher's and Hinze's, donated furniture and household goods. Walt Sweitzer often took Chandy to his work and helped with banking, while Kitty grocery shopped, took the children to the doctor, and helped them assimilate into the culture. Many other people helped with the family, as well.

In the early 1980's, St. Andrew/Redeemer, Detroit, became another one of our extended mission projects. We supported their soup kitchen and bought toys and gifts for the needy. In 1986, our Sunday School contributed gifts to St. Andrew's "Operation Santa Claus," and our youth delivered the gifts and cookies, enjoying the fun at their pre-Christmas party. Our own Ginny Schalm played an instrumental role in this mission.

During the mid-1980s, our Children's Ministry chose a different mission project every three months. In 1986, their mission dollars bought Bibles for children in Africa. For every dollar donated, two Bibles were purchased!

In 1994, Redeemer became involved with Habitat for Humanity. For several years, volunteers worked on building projects in the Pontiac and Ferndale areas. Many Redeemer members, including Elder Rick Russ, Jim Endress, and Gary Priskorn, also rehabbed and restored houses in Unity Park, Pontiac, and the Baldwin House in Birmingham.

In 2002, three new outreach opportunities were introduced. Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac was desperately in need of a space for donated women's clothing. Donna Hollis, Teddi Collier, and Marilyn Staargaard stepped up to help sort and display clothing and accessories for women who arrived with no personal belongings. Dale Claudpierre and Jim Perryman took the lead working on a men's closet at Grace. Next, we set our sights on the Family of God (FOG) soup kitchen in southwest Detroit which has offered countless opportunities to shop, cook, and stock their pantry. Redeemer youth, adults, and families have all pitched in to provide food and service. In addition, Kitty Sweitzer and Laura Vowell have each worked on separate "Sock-It-to-Me" projects, providing crew socks filled with personal grooming products for Pontiac and Royal Oak missions.

In more recent years, new opportunities for Redeemer to give back have taken flight. "Care Net Bags of Love" began in 2018 by Denise McDonald to prepare small bags of toiletry items with an encouraging, spiritual message for pregnant women at the CareNet Pregnancy Center in Berkley. Beth Hamada started "Chicks with Sticks" in 2022, a joint-service project and fellowship opportunity to come together to knit chemo caps and warm scarves for the Detroit Street Mission. Beth is now knitting hats and scarves in heaven.

Redeemer broadened its outreach beginning in 1996 when Joe Werner, Minister of Youth and Family, learned of a need in Mexicali, Mexico and joined forces with Faith (Troy) to minister to that community. The first year, 3 Redeemer youth went on the trip. From then to 2015, Redeemer's Youth Group and chaperones spent a week in the village of Irapuato and surrounding areas, presenting VBS activities, art projects, and games to the children of the village. Bible studies, art, and sewing projects were done with the women. The numbers of youth grew into the twenties. Our financial resources helped with the construction of a church, along with many service projects including painting schools, cleaning nursing homes, and landscaping work.

In 2000, Mark Wuggazer took the reins of the Mexicali Mission. Through Mark's dedication and enthusiasm for youth mission work,

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Mexicali grew in size and scope. Each year, Mark would meet with Irapauto's Pastor, Casildo Jiminez, to plan the next year's goals. The amount and nature of the work completed by the Mexicali youth and adults brought untold blessings to the village. Seeds of goodwill were planted and the community service left a lasting impact on the teens who participated in these meaningful trips.

Laura Vowell and Joel Brockberg became successors to Mark after he went to Seminary to follow in his father's footsteps. Both were former youth volunteers and chaperones and enjoyed taking the reins to pass on the values of the Mexicali experience to our youth. Redeemer left an indelible crest on the people of Irapauto and other villages they served, and Mexicali has forever impacted the lives and faith of everyone involved.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city of New Orleans. By 2007, Redeemer felt the call to help rebuild for week-long mission trips. For five consecutive years, volunteers traveled south to meet the needs of a devastated community helping to rebuild homes, a community center, a local Lutheran church, parks, and more. Our members became tile installers, drywallers, painters, tree planters, and beyond. We met those whose loss was unimaginable, yet we were inspired by their faith and resilience. On one trip, one of our work teams met Tyrone McGee, a former chef who had been displaced by the storm, who offered to cook meals for the Redeemer team. They were so inspired by Tyrone's story that they invited him and his wife, Rochelle, to Redeemer to cook for our Mardi Gras festival. Generous Redeemer members offered airline and hotel points. Having never been on a plane, it was the experience of their lifetime. Years later, when Tyrone passed away, 75% of his funeral brochure was dedicated to his trip to Redeemer. What a testament to the beauty that can arise out of the ashes! The friendships formed with Tyrone and the mutual impact we all had on each other was God's gift to us all.

While in NOLA, Redeemer stayed at Camp Restore. This was our first introduction to the program that would branch out to Camp Restore Detroit when they opened their local chapter in 2017. We helped identify Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in the 9th Precinct as the best location. We built bunk beds, helped build a community garden, worked on the children's resource home, and helped with community service projects and activities. Most importantly, Redeemer has made a commitment to fund the Redeemer Café, which will act as an adult resource center, a community gathering space, a café, and a space for community members to gain new work skills.

In 2014, our mission team headed to Belize where families had the opportunity to sponsor the building of a house, a medical clinic, and host VBS. Puerto Rico and Jamaica were other international destinations where our mission hearts and dollars took the hand of Jesus to struggling communities.

Realizing we could do world outreach at home, we donned our hair nets, met in the gym, and packed meals for Kids Against Hunger. It was so gratifying to see almost 200 of us gathered together measuring grain and rice for those in need of nutritious meals.

In 2012, The Bergstrom Family headed up efforts to build a sister church in Burkina Faso, Africa. Their commitment in both time and resources was critical to the program's success. At the time, Randy was approached about supporting children in the same country through Compassion International. The program was co-piloted by Redeemer's Sunday School and the church sponsored six young children. It has been thrilling to see their growth both spiritually and physically, and they are so grateful for every letter they receive.



Around 2005, Pastor Randy installed signs at our exit doors reading, "You are now entering the mission field." What a beautiful connection to Pastor Duane's words in 1965! What we do outside the church is what truly matters, and "saying 'yes' to another's need is one of the greatest moments in God's sight."

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO REDEEMER?



When I was 6-years old, my family decided to look for a new church. We were attending an ELCA church, but we decided that was not where we wanted to be. I didn't care for the Sunday school, my father wanted to be back in the LCMS, and my mother was the organist, but she did not want this job any longer.

We went here and there. One church had no pews - only folding chairs. The one I sat in folded up on me! I didn't go back to that building until I was an adult.

After visiting all the churches in the area, we voted. I got just as much of a vote as the adults. We didn't decide until we voted first and then discussed. Everyone voted for Redeemer. My father had attended the Chapel on Ann Street for the first 4-years that he taught in Birmingham, and he liked Pastor Ted's sermons. My mother liked the music. I loved the pews: the beautiful red colored wood, the curve of the wood - oh they were so glorious! Go look at the one by the Chapel and see how pretty they were!



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.



WEDNESDAY LUNCH & WORSHIP

All are invited to join us for our next Wednesday Lunch and Worship on **Wednesday, February 19th in the Great Room at 12:00pm** with a delicious meal of pork schnitzel, creamy potato soup, and other nibbles, 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 **February 17th** 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!



MARCH MADNESS WATCH PARTY



All are welcome to join in on the fun at this year's March Madness Watch Party at the Parsonage, set for **Sunday, March 30th from 3:00-6:00pm!** *Stay tuned to March's Lamp for more details!*



SENIOR'S MINISTRY



FAITHFUL FRIENDS ENRICHMENT SERIES

Join us at our next Enrichment Program on **March 2nd from 11:45am-12:45pm in the Great Room!**

Do you have an elderly parent or friend who seems to be struggling with the reality of day-to-day living? Are you a current or potential caregiver looking for Eldercare resources, answers to caregiving questions, or are unsure of the signals and symptoms that may prompt concern and additional care? Then, please join us for our next Faithful Friends Enrichment Program on March 2nd in the Great Room.

Based on requests, Redeemer member and Eldercare Counselor and Gerontologist, Diane Johns, also an experienced caregiver, will again lead a discussion of recognizing the obvious, but also the "silent" signs and behaviors of the elderly that warrant attention, observation, and care, as well as review available resources.

Please let any of the team know if there is a topic you are interested in learning more about for future programs.

We hope to see you there!
- The Faithful Friends Committee
Gary Priskorn, Marilyn Staargarrd,
Diane Johns, Tracy Fish, and Cheryl Carr

"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." Isaiah 46:4



PATHWAYS GRIEF AND LOSS RECOVERY GROUP

This month, our meeting will take place the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the Town Square.

Come join us on **Wednesday, February 12th** 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.*

MINISTRIES AT WORK

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Woman of the Year Luncheon

Tickets for the **Woman of the Year Luncheon** can be purchased by going to *The Council of Lutheran Women's Website* and finding the event code for Eventbrite (the code was available beginning January 15th). Then, go to the Eventbrite website and make your reservation for **Tuesday, March 25th - the luncheon begins at 11:00am at Crystal Gardens, located, at 16703 Fort Street (Southgate)**. Redeemer has reserved a table for 10 ladies - be sure to purchase your tickets early to help celebrate **Erin Mortenson** and her contributions to Redeemer and our community!

"Spiritual Conversations" Retreat

Redeemer women are invited to attend the day-long **"Spiritual Conversations"** retreat, sponsored by Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit on **Saturday, March 1st from 9:30am-3:00pm**. Hear from featured speaker Polly Gregali, Community Regional Facilitator of Lutheran Hour Ministry, as she walks us through a strategy to help engage in fruitful, spiritual conversation with others.

Reservations are required - sign-up forms can be found in the box outside Kitty's office. Several plan to attend but space is limited, so **make your reservation before February 21st**. Fee is **\$25.00** and includes welcome beverages, pastries, and a delicious lunch.



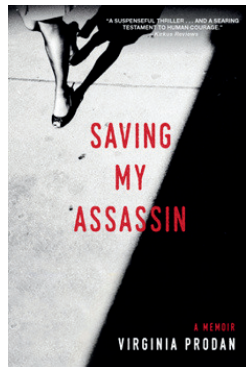
Chicks with Sticks

Our knitting needles are hard at work this winter! **Chicks with Sticks will meet on Thursday, February 6th and 20th in the Library at 1:00pm**. Don't know how to knit? We'll teach you! Come join us for this amazing fellowship opportunity!

"Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 4:5-6

All glory to God as we celebrate 100 years of Redeemer and the women who served before us!

Women's Book Group



Chilly February will bring our Women's Book Group an exciting book to read and review - **Virginia Prodan's "Saving My Assassin: A Memoir (The True Story of a Christian Attorney's Battle for Religious Liberty in Romania)"**.

This memoir is written in a fast, matter-of-fact style that strives to show the love of Christ to the very people who persecuted her and how that attitude, coupled with

the amazing power of God, paid off in astounding ways. The author did not have a plan for confrontation but rather let God's plan unfold in front of her, and He gave her just what she needed when she needed it. The author takes us to her home country and gives us a personal view into what communism looked like in Romania and what Christianity looked like in response. Virginia Prodan is an international human rights attorney, an Allied Attorney with the Alliance Defending Freedom, and a sought-after speaker who, because of her work and writings, was exiled from Romania 1988. Come share or come listen - you are invited and welcome! - **on Tuesday, February 25th at 7:30pm by the fire in the Town Square.**

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study NEW SERIES - "Don't Give the Enemy A Seat At Your Table" with Louie Giglio!

Have you ever regretted not coming to a Bible study and then thought you couldn't possibly attend because two or three sessions had gone by and you would be too far behind to catch up? Well... This is not one of those studies! If you have not started this study and want to be part of a heartwarming, soul-strengthening adventure, then come in on our second-half! We loved the first lesson, gaining understanding of God's loving plan for us, and want to share it with you! **We will meet at 6:30pm on Tuesday February 4th, 18th, 25th (*at 6:00pm), and March 4th in the Great Room**. Can't make it? There will be a new study in March... Join us then!

DON'T GIVE THE ENEMY A SEAT AT YOUR TABLE
IT'S TIME TO WIN THE BATTLE OF YOUR MIND...
LOUIE GIGLIO

Bunco Night!

COMING SOON!

Bunco Night hosted by Women's Ministry!
So fun, so easy, so us!

More information to follow in the bulletin!

MINISTRIES AT WORK



LENTEN KIDZ



Join us during mid-week Lenten services, which start on **Wednesday March 5th**, for LentenKidz!

All children ages 3 to 5th Grade are welcome! Children go to church with their families and then, after the Children's Message, will go down to the Scheidt Room for lesson and activities. We hope you'll join us!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Redeemer's Vacation Bible School is back for 2025 and will take place **June 16-20!** Last summer we had a fun-filled week diving deeper into God's word. What will VBS 2025 bring?! We have started planning and will get you more details soon. No matter the theme, it will be a fun week of learning more about our faith and having fun with our friends! **Stay tuned to March's Lamp for more information and exciting updates on how you can help!** We need kids from 3 to 99 to join us - you are never too old to come to VBS!



SCAMPER CAMP

Scamper Camp is back for another summer of fun for preschoolers!

Registration will open on Monday, February 10th at 9:00am. Keep an eye on the church website for more information! **Contact Nicole Olds with any questions!**



We still do...

A marriage reaffirmation ceremony for all Redeemer couples!



Saturday, February 8, 2025

The vow renewal ceremony will take place at 5:00pm in our Sanctuary followed by...

Dinner & Dancing at 6:30pm at the Auburn Hills Marriott

\$150 per couple

**Cost includes the ceremony, dinner, dancing, and photography. There will also be a cash bar and special rate for those who wish to stay the night.*



Questions?
Contact **Laura Vowell!**



POSITIVE PARENTING

Join us on **Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:45am in the Great Room!** 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. Nursery care is provided and available on a drop-in basis for younger children. Each session stands alone - we look forward to having you!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **February 5th:** Review and Discuss "God's Design for Marriage" (*Meet in Library*)
- **February 12th:** Valentine's Day Party
- **February 19th:** **NO CLASS** - *Midwinter Break*
- **February 26th:** Cook for FOG (*Meet in Kitchen*)
- **March 5th:** Review and Discuss "The Power Pause: How to Plan a Career Break After Kids--and Come Back Stronger Than Ever"

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

FEBRUARY Lamp

MINISTRIES AT WORK

RYG HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 2nd:

4:30pm: Mission Trip Orientation Meeting
Meet in the Great Room

7:00-9:00pm: Youth Group
Meet in the Youth Room

Wednesday, February 5th: Core Group, 6:00-8:00pm
Meet in the Youth Room

February 7th-9th: Winter Retreat

**No RYG Sunday, February 9th!*

Monday, February 10th: FOG, 5:00-8:00pm
Meet in the Kitchen

Wednesday, February 12th: Core Group, 6:00-8:00pm
Meet in the Youth Room

***FEBRUARY 16TH-22ND: NO MEETINGS!**

Sunday, February 23rd:

10:30am: Usher Sunday Church
4:00pm: Mission Trip Meeting

Meet in the Great Room

7:00pm: Youth Group
Meet in the Youth Room

Wednesday, February 26th: Core Group, 6:00-8:00pm
Meet in the Youth Room

FAMILY OF GOD

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

February 10th
March 10th

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



"redeemer_y00th"
ALWAYS CHECK INSTAGRAM
FOR ANY SCHEDULE CHANGES

HIGH SCHOOL NORTH CAROLINA MISSION TRIP

Did you hear the news?! High schoolers from Redeemer are traveling to Asheville, North Carolina this March to provide hurricane disaster relief and relational ministry! RYG is partnering with Praying Pelican Missions for our fifth time! Please keep the group in your prayers as they prepare over the next several weeks for their annual Spring Break mission trip!



RYG FUN FROM 2024!



2024 was full of fun events, new friendships, and amazing fellowship opportunities! We're looking forward to another year with our amazing youth and growing in our faith together!

JAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our January Game Night!
Everyone had a BLAST! Stay tuned for more JAMS fun coming this Spring!

Contact **Laura Vowell** with any questions or concerns related to JAMS or Confirmation.

MINISTRIES AT WORK

MUSIC MINISTRY



All the wonderful music ministry groups at Redeemer are 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

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)

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

LENT AND EASTER MUSIC

Hallelujah Chorus on Easter! If you plan to attend worship at the 9:00am or 10:30am services on Easter Sunday, April 20th, we invite you to join the Chancel Choir in singing the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's Messiah! You will be provided with a copy of the music during the service, or a copy can be obtained in advance by contacting **Steve SeGraves**.

Special Music Needed for Lenten Services! If you sing or play an instrument, we are looking for individuals to provide special music during our 1:00pm and 7:00pm Wednesday services. Services run Wednesday, March 12th thru Wednesday, April 9th. Please contact **Steve SeGraves** if you'd like to offer your musical ability for one of these services.

SPRING CONCERTS AT REDEEMER

The Birmingham Musicale
Presents
"MUSIC FROM THE HEART"
Love Songs & Lullabies
featuring Bonnie L. Brooks, Soprano
Thursday, February 13th
1:00-3:00pm
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
1800 Maple Road
Reception to follow performance.
Concert is free and open
to the public.
Please arrive
early for seating.

- **Thursday, March 13th - 1:00pm:** The Birmingham Musicale Choral Ensemble (Redeemer Sanctuary)
- **Sunday, April 6th - 3:00pm:** Birmingham Concert Band (Redeemer Sanctuary)
- **Thursday, April 10th - 1:00pm:** The Birmingham Musicale Choral Ensemble (Redeemer Sanctuary)
- **Saturday, April 26th - 7:00pm:** Cabaret Dinner, Show, and Silent Auction with the Farmington Chorus (directed by Steve SeGraves - Redeemer gym)
- **Sunday, May 18th - 4:00pm:** Men's Choral Concert featuring the Langsford Men's Chorus (conducted by Steve SeGraves - Redeemer Sanctuary)

COUNSELING CORNER

I've spent a large portion of my counseling career helping people be more comfortable in their own skin, the way God wired them. For example, an introvert who tries to live up to the false expectations of their peers so they pretend to be someone they are not like putting on more of a happy face and attending events with lots of conversation that can be draining. This kind of self-inflicted pressure can manifest into anxiety attacks. It is exhausting, I am told.

I'm not saying if you are lonely and a bit of a loner to just stay at home and do nothing... But how about lowering the bar on yourself just a bit and find a happy medium where you can be with others, but on your terms? A book club, attending a guest lecturer at the local library or university... You get the picture. Putting on a false persona and being inauthentic can be and is usually exhausting.

It can be extremely helpful to examine the phrase, "Like likes like." In other words, hang out with others who are wired like you are! If you are the more quiet-type, find events that would attract those like yourself and attend. Remember - God made you the way you are and wired you the way you are. So, if someone does not like the way you are wired and they try to change you, tell them to take it up with your Maker. God said He knew you before you were born.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before I set you apart; I appointed you prophet to the nations." - Jeremiah 11

He already had a plan for your life before you are born! He knew exactly who and what He was creating before you came into existence! He loves you just the way he made you!

Being authentically You and comfortable with who you are can be very freeing, and once practiced enough by using your voice to refute the critics, I bet there will be a decrease in the anxiety. Check yourself as you are learning to use your voice more and not be embarrassed of who God made you to be. See if some of the bothersome symptoms begin to disappear.

Finally, may I encourage you not to allow others to thwart God's plan for your life just because they don't like or understand who you are (in Christ!), so they try to change you! New set of friends? Maybe more like yourself? Remember, YOU are in control of your friend choices!

If you are dating someone that you just can't seem to change, I would suggest accepting who they are as God made them or move on to someone who will be better suited for you without all of the undue pressure to both of you trying to change them into someone they are not.

In this month that celebrates LOVE, show love and kindness to yourself. God loves you SO much! Believe it - embrace it - live it!

Happy Valentines Day! With God's love,
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



FEBRUARY

BIBLE READING PLAN

1

Exodus 13:17-15:18
Matthew 21:23-46
Psalm 26:1-12
Proverbs 6:16-19

2

Exodus 15:19-17:7
Matthew 22:1-33
Psalm 27:1-6
Proverbs 6:20-26

3

Exodus 17:8-19:15
Matthew 22:34-23:12
Psalm 27:7-14
Proverbs 6:27-35

4

Exodus 19:16-21:21
Matthew 23:13-39
Psalm 28:1-9
Proverbs 7:1-5

5

Exodus 21:22-23:13
Matthew 24:1-28
Psalm 29:1-11
Proverbs 7:6-23

6

Exodus 23:14-25:40
Matthew 24:29-51
Psalm 30:1-12
Proverbs 7:24-27

7

Exodus 26:1-27:21
Matthew 25:1-30
Psalm 31:1-8
Proverbs 8:1-11

8

Exodus 28:1-43
Matthew 25:31-26:13
Psalm 31:9-18
Proverbs 8:12-13

9

Exodus 29:1-30:10
Matthew 26:14-46
Psalm 31:19-24
Proverbs 8:14-26

10

Exodus 30:11-31:18
Matthew 26:47-68
Psalm 32:1-11
Proverbs 8:27-32

11

Exodus 32:1-33:23
Matthew 26:69-27:14
Psalm 33:1-11
Proverbs 8:33-36

12

Exodus 34:1-35:9
Matthew 27:15-31
Psalm 33:12-22
Proverbs 9:1-6

13

Exodus 35:10-36:38
Matthew 27:32-66
Psalm 34:1-10
Proverbs 9:7-8

14

Exodus 37:1-38:31
Matthew 28:1-20
Psalm 34:11-22
Proverbs 9:9-10

15

Exodus 39:1-40:38
Mark 1:1-28
Psalm 35:1-16
Proverbs 9:11-12

16

Leviticus 1:1-3:17
Mark 1:29-2:12
Psalm 35:17-28
Proverbs 9:13-18

17

Leviticus 4:1-5:19
Mark 2:13-3:6
Psalm 36:1-12
Proverbs 10:1-2

18

Leviticus 6:1-7:27
Mark 3:7-30
Psalm 37:1-11
Proverbs 10:3-4

19

Leviticus 7:28-9:6
Mark 3:31-4:25
Psalm 37:12-29
Proverbs 10:5

20

Leviticus 9:7-10:20
Mark 4:26-5:20
Psalm 37:30-40
Proverbs 10:6-7

21

Leviticus 11:1-12:8
Mark 5:21-43
Psalm 38:1-22
Proverbs 10:8-9

22

Leviticus 13:1-59
Mark 6:1-29
Psalm 39:1-13
Proverbs 10:10

23

Leviticus 14:1-57
Mark 6:30-56
Psalm 40:1-10
Proverbs 10:11-12

24

Leviticus 15:1-16:28
Mark 7:1-23
Psalm 40:11-17
Proverbs 10:13-14

25

Leviticus 16:29-18:30
Mark 7:24-8:10
Psalm 41:1-13
Proverbs 10:15-16

26

Leviticus 19:1-20:21
Mark 8:11-38
Psalm 42:1-11
Proverbs 10:17

27

Leviticus 20:22-22:16
Mark 9:1-29
Psalm 43:1-5
Proverbs 10:18

28

Leviticus 22:17-23:44
Mark 9:30-10:12
Psalm 44:1-8
Proverbs 10:19



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Mickey Margosian
Cheryl Schneider
Tommy Violante

February 2

Rachael Abraham
Carole Citron
Briggs Leahy
Donald Mitchell
Noah Schiller

February 3

Kristina Dobring
Jay Kafarski
Claire Laansoo
Mike Murdock
Lynda Nehan

February 4

Darlene Abraham
Lanie Burns
Andrew Lumsden

February 5

Gus Hartzell
Sarah Quasarano

February 6

Wyatt DeVos
Rob Lavoie
Arthur Poppert
Stacie Schultz
Amy Silva

February 7

Oliver Hartzell
Samantha Mee

February 8

Andrew Baskin
Jennifer Dilley
Rev. Ron Farah
Joshua Hessen
Kaki Merryman
Owen O'Neill
MaryAnn Perryman
Theresa Schulz

February 9

Sheila Bonner
Paige Curcio
Jack Juliano
Paul Quasarano
Daniel Settecerrri

February 10

Jacob Best
Ray Johnson
Marnie Lewbel
Bob Meyer
Matt Rose
Brayden Smith
Kathleen Szafranic

February 11

Ben Baranowski
Jeanne Bolcer
Tedi Collier
Brian Tyler

February 12

Jennifer Finley
Christie Hurst
Leesa Kulczycki
Steve Robinson
Adam Skoglund
Clara Warwick

February 13

Jane Howard
Kristen Schmidt
Scottie Seme

February 14

Liam Cruz
Kristen Fekete
Emily Fredericks
Rachel Pawlik
Kathy Richert
Maveric Seme
Evan Tylenda

February 15

Stephen Krieger
Tyler Steigerwald

February 16

Bill Baldner
Nicholas Johns
Sue Kurnat
Benjamin Meter
Joseph Mosey
Bob Stewart

February 18

Colin Amos
Jeffrey Harper
Wesley Jones
Jourdain Nash
Eric Stein
Evie Tice
Lindsey Turner
Gabriel Whetsell
Jeff Wolfe
Madelyn Young

February 19

Megan Cook
Donna Hollis
Sarah Johns
Cindy Nyquist
Elizabeth Reimann
Ollie Vowell
Brian Wroe

February 20

Dannielle Chahbani
Etta Leischner
Scot Lewis
Pat Raezler

February 21

Sean Millichamp
Jane Quasarano
Tom Rosenthal
Madelon Ryland

February 22

Rudi Goddard
Trevor Kent
Diana Nash
Erika Schmidt

February 23

Greg Appel
Zoe Gartner
David Hamada
Nick Mushovic
Duane Niedzwiecki
Matthew Pedersen
Marty Schmidt
John Schosman
Sara Wilkie

February 24

Liz Beck
Chris Charron
Erica Hutchings
Will Whetsell

February 25

Scott Hoge
Donald Holland
Ted Howard
Kelly Kipley
David Lumsden
Jon Oen, II

February 26

Marlene Burchill
Alivia Calvaneso
James VanderWerp

February 27

Cody Chickensky
DeAnna Hendricks

February 28

Katherine Mauger
Katie Moigis
Randy Ortiz
Michael Vautaw

February 29

Edith Vella

