

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

THE LAMP

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

April
2026

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FROM THE PASTOR



Two-thirds of U.S. adults (66%) say the biblical accounts of the physical resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate, according to Lifeway Research. So many believe in the resurrection of Jesus... yet haven't discovered what it truly means for their lives.

What if this Easter could be the beginning of something more?

A gentle step from knowing Jesus as a figure in history... to knowing Him as Lord, Savior, and hope for today.

Easter is an open invitation—to new life, new purpose, and a deeper story. Invite a friend to join you this Easter. You never know... it might be the start of a beautiful journey.

Pastor Randy

Holy Week Schedule

29
MAR

PALM SUNDAY

8am, 9am, 10:30am
Monday - 7:00pm



02
APR

MAUNDY THURSDAY

1pm, 7pm



03
APR

GOOD FRIDAY

1pm, 7pm



04
APR

EASTER VIGIL

5pm



05
APR

EASTER SUNDAY

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am



LUTHERAN CHURCH of the REDEEMER

1800 West Maple Road • Birmingham, MI 48009

Phone: 248-644-4010

E-mail: redeemer@redeemerbirmingham.org

Website: www.redeemerbirmingham.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 - <i>Senior Pastor</i>	ext. 119
Rev. James Greenwalt - <i>Assistant Pastor, Pastor of Adult Social Ministry</i>	ext. 117
Gary Priskorn - <i>Dir. of Shut-in Ministry</i>	ext. 123
Kitty Sweitzer - <i>Dir. of Women's Ministry</i>	ext. 111
Nicole Olds - <i>Dir. of Children's Ministry</i>	ext. 124
Steve SeGraves - <i>Dir. of Music</i>	ext. 129
Laura Vowell - <i>Dir. of Family Life, Middle School, Confirmation & Outreach</i>	ext. 121
Gia Scheidt - <i>Dir. of High School</i>	ext. 120
Eric Wisniewski - <i>Assistant Dir. High School</i>	ext. 120
Kim Davis - <i>Dir. of Fellowship</i>	248.613.4200
Pat Raezler - <i>Dir. of Westmaple Nursery</i>	ext. 126
Rose Kiehle - <i>Assistant to the Pastor</i>	ext. 116
Carrie Morris - <i>Office Manager</i>	ext. 114
Ronda Lee - <i>Design and Office Communications</i>	ext. 118
Laura Jones - <i>Accountant</i>	ext. 110
Conner Kelley - <i>Building Maintenance</i>	ext. 113
Dr. Sandy Pourcho - <i>Counseling Center</i>	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

FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Attendance Average	2026	2025
In person Worship	403	373
Online Worship	67	67
Bible Class	219	108
Sunday School	29	21
Monthly Attendance Totals	2026	2025
Communion	734	591
Visitors	77	51
Month: December	2026	2025
Income and Expenses		
Income received	\$245,832	\$219,228
Budget requirements	\$225,493	\$226,001
General fund expenses	\$198,235	\$190,547
YTD Fiscal-year income	\$1,254,171	\$1,267,471
YTD Fiscal-year expenses	\$1,115,939	\$1,143,439

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

*Heavenly Father, we thank You for the promise of
Your goodness and the grace of a new month. As
April brings new life to the world, we ask for a
fresh outpouring of Your Spirit in our lives. Open
our eyes to see Your work, our hearts to receive
Your love, and our minds to recognize the
opportunities You set before us.*

PASTORAL ACTS

FUNERALS

2/05/26 - Carol Swope

2/07/26 - Norbert Louis Schiller

2/21/26 - Thomas "Tom" Weisz

BAPTISMS

2/22/26 - James Leeuw Vander Werp
son of Mark and Courtney Vander Werp

2/22/26 - Charlie Michael Vander Werp
son of Mark and Courtney Vander Werp

IN REMEMBRANCE

Donations made to the Memorial Fund
in memory of:

Wayne Gray

Ralph Pedersen

Norm Morrell

Carol Swope

Bert Schiller

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.

If you would like to donate an item in memory of a loved one, please contact **Pastor Randy**.



The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

READER



Help share God's Word in worship by reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons! Readers of all ages (5-95) are welcome at any service. Sign up [here](#) or visit "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website. Questions? Contact the Church Office.

GREETER



If you can offer a friendly "good morning," a handshake, and a welcoming smile—and have just 15 minutes on a Sunday morning—you can make a big impact as a greeter! Redeemer is looking for volunteers to welcome guests at the Town Square and Narthex doors before the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Bring a friend or your family and serve together. Sign up [here](#) or visit "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or contact Andrea Schlak for details.

HOW CAN I SERVE?

ALTAR FLOWERS

Tiffany Florist provides our weekly worship flowers, sponsored by congregation members.



Sanctuary Altar (2 vases): \$75

Chapel Altar (2 vases): \$55

Sanctuary or Chapel Lectern (1 planter): \$35
Sanctuary flowers can be taken home after the 10:30 AM service; Chapel flowers after Monday night worship. Sign up on the Town Square bulletin board or click [here](#) or visit "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website.



FAMILY USHERING

Your family can serve as Sunday ushers—handing out bulletins and helping with the offering. An experienced usher will be there to guide you. Sign up [here](#) or visit "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website. Contact Laura Vowell for details.

ACOLYTING & CROSS BEARING



The Redeemer Acolyte & Cross Bearing Program is open to anyone who would like to serve and is required for Confirmation students. To sign up, click [here](#) or visit "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website. For questions or more information, contact our coordinator, Crissy Bienkowski

MYSTERY PRELUDE



Have a song request? Sign up for organist Rick Helderop to play it during the Prelude at any Sunday service (8:00, 9:00, or 10:30 am)! Visit the church homepage or scan the QR code to access the request form. The \$10 fee supports our Mission Fund—thank you for participating!

HOST A COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are needed to host Sunday morning coffee hour year-round! Simple instructions provided—no elaborate setup required. Sign up [here](#) or visit "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or contact Kim Davis 248.613.4200



YOUNG ADULTS

BIBLE STUDY: First Wednesday of

Every Month 6:30 - 8:00pm

CHURCH LUNCHEES:

Once a Month after Church

Contact Ryan Teahan for location and any questions @ (248) 977-8015

WOMEN

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Led by Kitty Sweitzer

Tuesdays - 6:30pm - Great Room

Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study is enjoying a rocket ride through a series presented by Kristi McLelland and her topic "Jesus and Woman" during which we are learning so many historical and biblical details...just when you think you know.....! We meet every Tuesday evening at 6:30 (except for the 4th Tuesday of the month) for prayer, laughter, learning and fellowship. We will not meet on April 7 and April 28. On the 28th we hope you will come to hear Justin share his knowledge about the Cultural Revolution in China.

Questions? misskitty@redeemberbirmingham.org.

HOW CAN I GROW?



MOMS

MOMS IN THE WORD

Led by Crissy Bienkowski

Mondays 9:15-10:45 - Library

A space for moms to grow in faith together. Each week we will open our Bibles, explore the lives of people God used in powerful ways, and encourage one another in faith. We hope you'll join us.

Questions or want more information? Contact Crissy Bienkowski 989-450-3946 crissybienkowski@gmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Led by Kyle Chuhran

10am (after 9am worship) - Scheidt Room

We are currently exploring the book of Romans. Come to learn from God's Word and from conversations with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

ADULTS

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Led by Pastor Jimmy

9:30am - Great Room - *ZOOM Available

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

April 16th - 9:30am - Great Room

We are welcoming back Rabbi Jerry to discuss the temple in the Old and New Testaments. Questions? Andrea Schlak (schlakandrea@gmail.com).

NEW MEMBERS

Join us for our spring session of New Member Classes starting on Sunday 4/19. See page 13 for all the details.

MEN

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Led by Gary Priskorn

Wednesdays, 6:45-7:30am • Great Room | Zoom available

Men of all ages are invited to join our study of Genesis. Enjoy meaningful discussion, great fellowship, and coffee & treats. For Zoom details or more information, contact Gary Priskorn (248-644-4010 ext. 123).

KIDS & YOUTH

Children's Sunday School: age 3 - 5th grade
Led by Nicole Olds **During 10:30am Service**

Confirmation classes: 6th - 8th grade
Led by Laura Vowell. **Wednesdays - 6-8pm**

RYG: High School

Led by Gia Scheidt and Eric Wisniewski
Sundays - 7pm, Wednesdays 6-8pm



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 28th - 6:30pm - Town Square

Led by Stacey Rolf



April's book is *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie.

While it was known that life was difficult in China and even more so under Mao Zedong, not until recently was it known to what extent; how things seemed almost pointless in so many ways. For Mao Zedong, revolution meant purging China of anything "Western". It is difficult after reading this book to imagine a world where all literature is banished, all stories are silenced, freedom to pursue the arts and creative license is denied. Author Dai Sijie blends humor, romance, and beauty together to create a book that is unforgettable. It is lamentable how short-sighted and misguided China's "Cultural Revolution" was, and it is amazing that Sije could spin this touching a tale from that hard and unforgiving period. This book is a must read, if only to remind ourselves that the freedom to choose is a very precious thing. *The Red Scarf Girl* will also be used as a point of discussion so reread or bring your copy and share in the discussion. Refreshments served!

HOW CAN I CONNECT?

PATRIARCHS

PATRIARCHS HAVE A NEW FORMAT! SEE PAGE 9!

We are a group of husbands, fathers of school-aged children, and soon-to-be dads with a goal of growing in our faith, building a strong community of Christian men, and discussing how we can better lead our families in faith with strength and humility. Come when you can, drop-ins welcome.

Next meeting on **Wed, April 1st at 8pm** - Great Room. Questions? Contact Brandon Movitz (248-421-9226).

PATHWAYS

Grief and Loss Group

This month's meeting will be **April 7 at 1:00pm** in the Town Square. Come join us 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! Any questions, feel free to call Dr. Sandy Pourcho (248-568-6040), Redeemer's Resident Counselor.

POSITIVE PARENTING

Led by Victoria Ilitch

Weds, 9:15-10:45am - 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 with one another. Nursery care is provided and is available on a drop-in basis for any younger children. April will have two sessions centered around financial literacy on April 15 and 22 and round out the month with a guest speaker, Julianne Nieberg - founder of My Outdoorsy Mom. Her mission is to give parents practical tools to raise resilient kids who feel confident exploring the world, while appreciating God's creation.

No Meeting on April 1 or 8.

PRAYER GROUP

Friday, April 17 at 1pm



join Redeemer's new Prayer Group! Whether you are new to prayer or have prayed for many years, gathering together allows us to support one another, grow spiritually, and experience God's presence more deeply.

CHICKS WITH STICKS

April 16 - 1:00pm

Join the fun with a welcoming group of women who love to create and give back. Learn the basics, make your first scarf, and share warmth with someone in need.

We care—come join us!



HOW CAN I . . .

KEEP MY KIDS OCCUPIED DURING THE SERVICE?



WATCH CHURCH LIVE?

- 1) Go to the church website: www.redeemberirmingham.org (or click [here](#))
- 2) Click the first square with the big blue V.
- 3) Click on the video that has the LIVE indicator. The indicator will appear when the service has started.



Welcome to Redeemer, Little Ones! Worship alongside Mommy and Daddy with your very own Itty-Bitty Buddy Bag—filled with soft toys, books, and quiet fun for the service. Please return bags to Nicole Olds' office afterward. Prefer to play? Our nursery is ready with lots of toys!!

WATCH A PAST SERVICE?

- 1) Go to the church website. www.redeemberirmingham.org (or click [here](#))
- 2) 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. Closed Captioning is available on all videos.



GET HELP HEARING THE SERVICE?



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.

STOP BY THE CHURCH DURING THE WEEK?



Exterior doors will be locked weekdays from 9:00am–4:00pm (except during school drop-off & pick-up). Please use the Town Square Narthex intercom or the east Chapel door to be buzzed in by the Church Office.

Evening access will vary by event. Contact the Church Office with any questions.

RECEIVE COMMUNION IN MY PEW?



If you're unable to come to the Chancel for Communion, please let an usher know before the service and we will gladly bring Communion to you in your pew.



MISSIONS

Family of God

Serve one another, humbly in love. – Gal 5:13

Can you shop? Cook? Deliver meals? or simply like to donate money? We need you!

Family of God is a non-profit Lutheran ministry committed to bringing the transformative power of the gospel to the lives of those living in Southwest, Detroit by offering programs that support them in physical, spiritual, and emotional capacities. Redeemer partners with Family of God providing meals 2 times a month.

There are many ways that you can help!

Shop? Volunteers are needed to shop for ingredients and bring them to the church.

Cook? Prep a fresh or frozen meal in the church kitchen, your recipes or pre-planned.

Deliver and Serve? 3 hours to feed a hungry soul and have a life changing experience.

Donate? \$300 covers one meal but every dollar helps. Sponsorships are \$100.

Check out the missions page of the Redeemer website for more information and to get involved.

Toiletry Drive!

We're collecting toiletries to restock Family of God's toiletry closet! Needed items include **toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, lotion, feminine hygiene products, razors, and soap.** Check out the information in the Town Square for the full list or scan the QR code for our Amazon list – purchase directly from the list and the items will be delivered right to Redeemer! If dropping off donations, please place them on the designated table in the Town Square.



Donations due on Sunday 4/12!

Questions? Contact Vance Johnson (vancepj@comcast.net), Colin Dobbs (27dobbsc@brrice.edu), or Laura Vowell (laura@redeemberirmingham.org).



RYG AND FAMILY OF GOD

April 13, May 11

RYG cooks and serves at Family of God Soup Kitchen the 2nd Monday of every month - join us in helping others! ***Meet in the kitchen at 5:00pm and bring money for dinner!**

We'll carpool to FOG then get dinner together!

RELIEF FOR THE HOMELESS!

Support Our Local Homeless Shelters
Redeemer is collecting donations to provide essential supplies for those experiencing homelessness during the cold months. Every gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,000! Give easily by: Scanning the QR code, or Writing a check to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (memo: "Homeless Shelter") and placing it in the offering plate or mailing/dropping it off at the church office.

Have a shelter close to your heart? Feel free to include your suggestion with your gift.



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. 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.**

★ CABARET DINNER ★

Redeemer's own Steve SeGraves is celebrating 36 years as conductor of the Farmington Chorus!

Join us on Saturday, April 25 at 7pm

here at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

for an evening of wonderful music by the chorus and guest artists, a delicious Italian-themed dinner, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle.

This year's cabaret theme, "Oh the Places You'll Go," features songs about locations, direction, and movement—favorites like *I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo*, *Free Ride*, and *If Ever I Would Leave You*.

A minimum donation of \$25 per person is requested, or reserve a full table for up to eight for \$240. (An extra \$5 per person). Reserved seating is available in advance only on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting Sally Flayer at 248-613-2623 or saflayer@comcast.net. **Please order early**, as the event often sells out, and include any dietary needs when reserving. The Farmington Chorus is a 501(c)(3).

Patriarchs update!

The Patriarchs now offer two groups, providing an opportunity to meet each week: 1) Patriarchs Life Group: Focused on applying faith in everyday life and building community with Christian husbands and fathers of young children. 2) Patriarchs Study Group: An opportunity to grow in faith through Scripture and Christian books, learning and deepening understanding together.

PLG (Life Group): April 1, 15 & 29. PSG (Study Group): April 8, 22, & May 6

April

April 2

Maundy Thursday

April 3

Good Friday

April 5

Easter Sunday

April 6

Easter Monday

Church office and building closed

April 16

Birmingham
Musical Concert

April 17

Prayer Group

April 19

Confirmants lead
Service

April 19

Birmingham Concert
Band Concert

April 25

Cabaret Dinner and
Concert

April 28

Book Group Guest
Speaker - Justin Sweitzer

Q What is your official job title at Redeemer?

A I am the Building Manager.

Q How long have you worked at Redeemer?

A I have been here for 8 months.

Q What drew you to this occupation?

A I was looking for a job where I didn't hate going into work everyday. I am really enjoying my time here.

Q Describe Redeemer in less than 5 words or less.

A One Big Family

Q If you could visit any place in the world, where would it be?

A Japan would be my first pick. It's on my bucket list!

Q What is your favorite sandwich and why?

A Leo's Chicken Finger Pita with extra ranch. I have been eating those since I've been a kid.



YOUTH

RYG HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

4/5: No RYG
 4/12: RYG, 7-9pm
 4/13: Family of God, 5-8pm
 4/19: RYG, 7-9pm
 4/26: RYG ushers at 10:30 service
 2/26: RYG, 7-9pm
 Core Group every Wednesday, youth room, 6-8pm!

RYG Calendar

Want updates on the youth during their mission to Belize?



Use the QR code to catch all the action!



JAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Save the Date for some upcoming JAMS fun!

SCHOOL'S OUT LOCK-IN
6-19-26

SUMMER Jams
Every Wednesday / 6-8pm
Starts 6-24-26



"redeemer_y00th"
ALWAYS CHECK INSTAGRAM FOR ANY SCHEDULE CHANGES

Grab a friend!
Come see what Redeemer Youth Group is all about!

Library Check Out Procedure

Fill out the name/date card from the pocket in the back of the item you wish to check out. Please include your first and last name and the date the item is due. Place the check out card in the basket on the circulation desk.

Books - 2 weeks, Media (DVDs) - 1 week, Bible Studies up to 8 weeks

The card catalog can be accessed on-line at <https://luthernchurch.library.site/> (yes, it is spelled wrong) Questions? - library@redeemberirmingham.org



LIBRARY LIGHTS

Happy April! This month we celebrate Easter and prepare for longer days and warmer weather. Whether you're looking for a fun read, a family movie, a bible study or informational picture book, our library has many options to choose from.

If you are looking for a short non-fiction video, *The Week That Changed The World*, is an amazing documentary about the final week of Jesus Christ before His Crucifixion. Hosted by Paul L. Maier, this documentary uses history, archaeology, and science to give viewers a factual biblical and historical re-telling of the events of Holy Week. Dr. Maier uses maps, graphics, and remarkable dramatic re-creations to bring Holy Week alive in a whole new way.

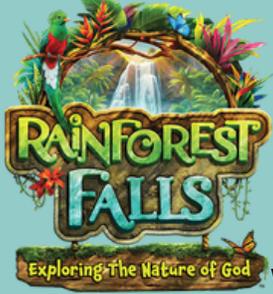
The Sparkle Egg, by Jill Hardie, is a beautifully written (and illustrated) children's book that teaches the power of forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection. In this book, Sam is upset about a lie he told his parents. Even though he apologized and they forgave him, Sam can't forgive himself. Sam's mom tells him to write anything he feels sorry about on a piece of paper and put it inside his Sparkle Egg. On Easter morning, when Sam opens his Sparkle Egg he finds that it is empty! His parents explain that like the tomb that first Easter Day, Sam's egg is empty -- and Sam's wrongdoing is completely forgiven because Jesus died and rose again.

In the book, *I Saw The Lord: A Wake-up Call for Your Heart*, author Anne Graham Lotz (daughter of renowned preacher, Billy Graham) says, "sometimes . . . in the busyness of our days or the duties of our jobs or the familiar habits of our worship or the everyday routine of our homes, the longing becomes complacency, and we sleep through opportunities to be with Him." Anne's book is an open and honest reflection of life when we forget to put God at the center of it. Best of all, she tells what to do to experience an authentic, deeper, richer relationship with God in a life-changing way.

We hope you are able to discover your next favorite read or a new favorite author in our library. Our on-line catalog is available at <https://luthernchurch.library.site/> Questions and hold requests can be emailed to library staff at library@redeemberirmingham.org

Happy Reading!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



VBS **June 15-19**

The VBS team is working hard to prepare for this year's amazing week. Come and explore with us! Rainforest Falls – Exploring the Nature of God is our theme this year. Our registration started in March online. See the website for more details or click [here!](#) Check the weekly announcements for any other donations we might need. We can't wait to go on this new adventure with you!
Blessings from the 2026 team: Megan Rettray, Crissy Bienkowski, and Emily Imhoff.



We Need You!

We are looking for adults of all ages to help with this incredible week of fun. We will need teachers, classroom helpers, people in the craft area and kitchen sous chefs just to name a few. Please consider volunteering. See the sign-up [here](#) for the craft area and kitchen or talk to Nicole. If you are interested in teaching, please reach out to Nicole Olds (nolds@redeemberirmingham.org)



Redeemer Summer Kamp

August 2-8, 2026



Summer is almost here and that means it is time to start thinking about Redeemer Summer Kamp. Kamp is a week-long sleep away camp for kids who will be entering 3rd-9th grade in the fall of 2026. We mix traditional summer camp fun with bible study and worship. Kamp is a wonderful outreach ministry so invite a friend to join you this year for Kamp!. Registration is now open to Redeemer members and will open to all on April 1. Lots of information can be found on the website at lcr.church/kamp. Email Erin Springer with questions redeemerkamp@gmail.com.



SCAMPERS **is coming!**

Scamper camps are during the summer for 2 year olds – kids just finishing 1st grade. Each week is a new theme and runs Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 to 1:00 with extended day option until 2:30. There is still space available in some weeks but there is also a waitlist. Information and the registration form is available on the website. Questions contact Nicole Olds.

Calling all bakers!



Calling all bakers and snack lovers! VBS snacks are covered for kids, but our teen and adult volunteers would love a treat too. Consider bringing bagels, baked goods, chips, or fruit/veggies. Sign up [here](#) to help or talk to Nicole Olds — thank you!



EASTER SUNDAY
after 10:30 SERVICE

Kids are invited to join the fun at Redeemer's annual Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday, April 5! Bring your basket and come celebrate with us—a great way to enjoy a joyful morning together.



LUTHERAN SCHOOL **SPONSORSHIP**



Enrolling your child for the first time at Our Shepherd Lutheran School or Lutheran High Northwest? To learn about sponsorship, schedule an appointment with Pastor Randy by mid-April. Re-enrolling for 2025–2026? Please notify Carrie Morris in the Church Office as soon as possible.

MUSIC MINISTRY

*Redeemer 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 Choir

Chancel Choir sings at Sunday morning worship and seasonal festival services, enriching our worship through music ranging from classic anthems to modern, spiritual, and gospel settings. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00pm, in the music room.

Contact Steve SeGraves at stevensegraves@gmail.com.

REDEEMER PRAISE

Redeemer Praise, the church's praise team, leads worship on the third Sunday of each month at the 9:00am and 10:30am services, and at 10:30am throughout the summer. This group is for those who enjoy singing or playing contemporary Christian music. Rehearsals are Sundays, 8:00am (Sept–May) in the Sanctuary and 9:00am (summer) in the Choir Room.

Contact Steve SeGraves at stevensegraves@gmail.com.

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir is made up of children ages 6 to 14 years of age. These musical children sing approximately one Sunday a month, generally at the 10:30am worship service. Rehearsal information to be announced. Nancy Lesinski - 248-709-3040 or Nicole Olds - 248-644-4010 ext. 124

HEART OF WORSHIP: Senior High

The Heart of Worship is a contemporary youth praise group, made up of talented Senior High Teens from our Youth Group. They participate in our worship services periodically throughout the year.

Gia Scheidt and Eric Wisniewski at 248-644-4010 ext. 120

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. Contact Pastor Jimmy for info.

REDEEMER RINGERS

The Redeemer Ringers share the unique beauty of handbells in worship, often collaborating with the Chancel Choir, Redeemer Brass, and other instrumentalists. They typically play on the fourth Sunday of each month and rehearse Thursdays at 7:00pm in the handbell room.

Contact: James Compton (248.396.7635).

May

May 1

Confirmation Rehearsal

May 2

Confirmation Day

May 3

Spring New Member Class

May 7

National Day of Prayer

May 10

Mother's Day
Spring New Member Class

May 14

The Birmingham Musicale
Luncheon & Performance

May 15

Square Dance

May 17

New Member Brunch
Langsford Men's Chorus
Spring Concert

May 19

Pathways Grief Group
Bocce Ball

May 25

Memorial Day
Office & Building Closed

May 26

Women's Book Group

Mother's Day Men's Choir

Men of Redeemer—if you enjoy singing, join us for the annual Mother's Day Men's Choir! We'll honor our wives, mothers, and all mothers by singing one song at the 9:00 & 10:30am services on Sunday, May 10. Music will be available in the choir room after March 1. Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:30–6:45pm, starting April 1. Extra rehearsal: Sunday, May 3, after the 10:30am service. No experience needed—just the ability to carry a tune and a heart to serve through music.

Upcoming Music at Redeemer

Tuesday, April 19, 3pm - Birmingham Concert Band Spring Concert

Saturday, April 25th, 7pm - Cabaret Dinner, Show and Silent Auction (see page 9 for details)

Thursday, May 14th, 11am - Birmingham Musicale May Luncheon and Performance

Sunday, May 17th, 4pm - Men's choral concert (An American Choral Celebration) with the award-winning Langsford Men's Chorus, conducted by Steve SeGraves.

FAMILY LIFE



Become a Member!

If you are interested in becoming a member of Redeemer... now you can! Join us for our spring session of New Member Classes! Starting on Sunday 4/19, classes will run for 4 weeks on Sundays from 9am – 10am. We will end with a yummy New Member Brunch on Sunday 5/17! Come join us! Contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemberirmingham.org) with questions or for more information. *** There is childcare available at that time in the nursery for ages 0-3, but if you need care for older children, just let Laura know and she'll arrange it!*

SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming Events through Social Ministry

- ★ **Friday May 8** on the Road with Pastor Jimmy, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Vision dinner.
- ★ **Friday May 15** - Square Dance.
- ★ **Tuesday May 19** - Bocci Ball
- ★ **Wednesday August 19** - Golf and BBQ

SETTING OUR SIGHTS ON THE HOLY LAND!

SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 5 – APRIL 15, 2027

Good Shepherd Travel Co. will be planning soon. Watch for announcements with further details and itinerary information.

Questions? Call Leslie Whitfield at 248-330-8685



Guest Lecturer

April 28, at 6:30 p.m.



Circle the date and join us in the Town Square for a reunion with Justin Sweitzer, son of Walt and Kitty, who has shared his love for literature and learning with our Women's Book Group. Justin, who is a humanities teacher in a private school in California, will review and discuss Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress and Red Scarf Girl outlining details of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Please join us on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30 in the Town Square for refreshments and a look at the little understood and catastrophic decade in modern Chinese History with repercussions for today's Christians living and worshiping in China.



Hallelujah Chorus on Easter!

If you plan to attend worship at the 9:00am or 10:30am services on Easter Sunday, April 5th, 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.



Kitchen Witch is Grateful

Grateful and thankful to everyone who has used the kitchen during Lent and have made an effort to clean up and leave the kitchen ready for the next team. Thank you! Just a few notes to everyone regarding kitchen care:

- *Please do not store foodstuffs in the pantry.* Use it here or take it home. A good idea is to check and see what we have before you buy more. Lots of staple things like oil, spices, salt, etc., are in good supply in the pantry. Check first please.
- *No foodstuffs may rest on the floor in the pantry even if they are in boxes.* Take it home or use it here.
- *Don't forget to wipe out the bottom of the fridge following your cooking adventure,* especially if you have stored meat or poultry there.
- *Keep up the good work.* It is gratifying to think of all the meals that have gone to feed others. Friendship, fellowship and stewardship are a great combination.



to GIVE

Go to www.redeemberirmingham.org and click the "GIVE" box or scan this QR Code to be taken to the giving page!

You can give once, or setup a recurring gift. See Shelby instructions on our website under the Giving tab.





AgeWays (formerly Area Agency on Aging 1-B) is a non-profit organization supporting seniors (60+), caregivers, and adults with disabilities in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties. It provides resources, including Medicare counseling and in-home care programs to help seniors live independently. In addition, AgeWays funds and oversees the Meals on Wheels program for their six-county region.

This organization has Resource Specialists available to answer questions and offer information on local services. They can also provide information on available financial programs and eligibility guidelines for assistance with prescriptions, utilities or other needs. AgeWays also provides free classes and webinars for family caregivers stressing the need for caregivers to take care of themselves while caring for their loved ones. Call or check out their website www.ageways.org for upcoming sessions and to register.

This organization is a great starting point for older adults, caregivers or anyone with questions or in need of a particular service. If resources are needed for a loved one outside of their jurisdiction, you can contact them for the local area agency on aging covering the county in need.

The Faithful Friends Ministry Team will continue to spotlight other services/programs that we feel would be helpful. If you know of one we should be sharing, please let any of the team know. If you'd like to become involved in this ministry or you know of an older adult in the congregation who would like to be matched with a Faithful Friend volunteer, please reach out to us.

Gary Priskorn, Pam Tyndall, Marilyn Staargarrd, Diane Johns, Tracy Fish and Cheryl Carr



Michele is the driving force behind Redeemer's rummage sale. For over 20 years, she has helped it grow and evolve into the incredible fundraiser it is today. What starts as stacks of bags and boxes becomes a thoughtfully organized sale—thanks to her vision and dedication.

She loves the energy of it all—people coming together, working toward a common goal, and the “pay it forward” spirit that carries on even after the sale ends.

Michele was first drawn to the rummage sale because it aligned perfectly with her skills and offered a meaningful way to give back to both the church and the community. Redeemer is so grateful for Michelle's servant heart and boundless energy!

COUNSELING CORNER

A few days ago, a member of Redeemer stopped by my office when the door was open, and he noted the three scriptures that I have painted on my wall by an artist. He and his wife were admiring these scriptures, and I told them that these three scriptures are what I have learned to live my life by, and I've realized that I also constantly refer to them during my counseling sessions. They have literally changed my life and paradigm in challenging times.

In contemplating what to share with you this month, these same scriptures came to mind, and I would like to share them with you, too...

Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Lesson Learned: The person God expects you to serve (spouse, friend, co-workers, relative, parent, etc.) sometimes does NOT deserve anything from you, much less service! (Neither did we, but Jesus died for us anyway, out of LOVE!) However - here's the gold! - when you serve them, you are doing it as unto the Lord - you are serving HIM! With this paradigm shift, it is a whole lot easier to serve others who, in our flesh, don't deserve it! We are to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1) - this truly is walking the talk!

Habakkuk 3:17-19: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights."

Lesson Learned: No matter how bad or tough life gets, I will keep praising the Lord no matter what the circumstances look like! God's got this, and He has a plan to help me. I will not give in to negativity (Satan's playground) - God ALWAYS comes through for me. It does not matter how things "look" - it's a faith-walk, for sure.

Proverbs 3:5-7: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean NOT on your own understanding; in ALL your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Lesson Learned: I'm still learning to give EVERYTHING to God that concerns me. My kneejerk response is to handle things on my own and not "bother the Lord with the small stuff." But, it sure goes a whole lot better when I trust God with everything. You'll see!

I truly pray you give these scriptures a try - they are life-changing! Be more contemplative and more intentional. Did you know that the things (good and bad) you obsess about and ruminate on are the very things that can start to take root in your heart? That's why God instructs us to "meditate on His Word day AND night and obey everything in it - then you will prosper and succeed in all you do" (Joshua 1:8). God's Word has transformative power to change your life!

May the Lord empower you on your journey with Him!

Dr. Sandy Pourcho



March happenings at Redeemer

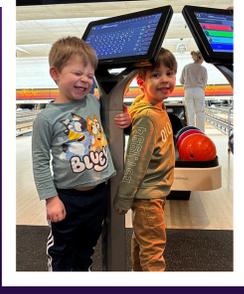


Rummage Sale

The Rummage sale was a great success, earning over \$17,000. Thanks to everyone that donated, worked, and shopped!



Mother-Son Bowling



Seder Dinner



Lenten Meals



Thank you to everyone that donated, cooked, and served our Lenten meals.





Lutheran Adult Gathering 2026

October 9-11, 2026

Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

For decades, the Lutheran Adult Gathering has been bringing God's people to the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island for a mountaintop experience of spiritual renewal. This year we will gather under the theme "In His Presence: Go - Make - Share," based on the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

Speakers Greg Finke and Ryan Tinetti will equip us for sharing the Gospel in our context.

As we gather "In His presence," we will be renewed and refreshed, surrounded by the fellowship of believers, and equipped to give a joyful witness to the living hope we have in Jesus. Join us!

Registration Cost: \$50/person

This cost includes programming and ferry to the island.

Hotel Costs Separate

Once you've completed your general registration, you will be provided a link in your confirmation email to complete your lodging reservations. Cost includes 2 nights and 4 meals.

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For more information and to register, click [here](#) or visit <https://michigandistrict.org/event/lutheran-adult-gathering-2026>



DONATE YOUR STOCK TO REDEEMER

Did you know you're able to donate your stock to Redeemer through Charles Schwab?! If you would like to give to Redeemer in this way, here are the steps you'll need to take - printed directions are also available in the Church Office. Thank you for your contribution!

- Get in touch with your financial person and give them Redeemer's Account #, Tax ID, and DTC number, **all of which can be obtained in the Church Office or by Laura Jones, our accountant.**
- Your financial advisor will transfer the stock into Redeemer's Schwab account.
- Send an email to Laura Jones once the transaction is complete. This will notify her so she can liquidate the stock immediately.

****THIS IS HER ONLY NOTIFICATION OF THE TRANSACTION, SO THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!****

- The person donating will receive a letter/email confirming Redeemer has received the donation.



Big shout out and lots of praise for the women who helped in the kitchen for our Lenten dinner; Madelon Ryland, Asia Maeder, Zella Honemann, Kaki Mammel, Polly Millichamp, Christie Hurst, Crissy Bienkowski, Sue Helderop, Denise McKewan, Paula Butler, Tedi Collier, Jerris Rosenthal. They served with joy and turned out a great meal. I am grateful for the hands and hearts in the kitchen that night.

APRIL

BIBLE READING PLAN

1

Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20
Luke 9:28-50
Psalm 73:1-28
Proverbs 12:10

2

Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30
Luke 9:51-10:12
Psalm 74:1-23
Proverbs 12:11

3

Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19
Luke 10:13-37
Psalm 75:1-10
Proverbs 12:12-14

4

Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26
Luke 10:38-11:13
Psalm 76:1-12
Proverbs 12:15-17

5

Deuteronomy 28:1-68
Luke 11:14-36
Psalm 77:1-20
Proverbs 12:18

6

Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20
Luke 11:37-12:7
Psalm 78:1-31
Proverbs 12:19-20

7

Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27
Luke 12:8-34
Psalm 78:32-55
Proverbs 12:21-23

8

Deuteronomy 32:28-52
Luke 12:35-59
Psalm 78:56-64
Proverbs 12:24

9

Deuteronomy 33:1-29
Luke 13:1-21
Psalm 78:65-72
Proverbs 12:25

10

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Joshua 1:1-2:24
Luke 13:22-14:6
Psalm 79:1-13
Proverbs 12:26

11

Joshua 3:1-4:24
Luke 14:7-35
Psalm 80:1-19
Proverbs 12:27-28

12

Joshua 5:1-7:15
Luke 15:1-32
Psalm 81:1-16
Proverbs 13:1

13

Joshua 7:16-9:2
Luke 16:1-18
Psalm 82:1-8
Proverbs 13:2-3

14

Joshua 9:3-10:43
Luke 16:19-17:10
Psalm 83:1-18
Proverbs 13:4

15

Joshua 11:1-12:24
Luke 17:11-37
Psalm 84:1-12
Proverbs 13:5-6

16

Joshua 13:1-14:15
Luke 18:1-17
Psalm 85:1-13
Proverbs 13:7-8

17

Joshua 15:1-63
Luke 18:18-43
Psalm 86:1-17
Proverbs 13:9-10

18

Joshua 16:1-18:28
Luke 19:1-27
Psalm 87:1-7
Proverbs 13:11

19

Joshua 19:1-20:9
Luke 19:28-48
Psalm 88:1-18
Proverbs 13:12-14

20

Joshua 21:1-22:20
Luke 20:1-16
Psalm 89:1-13
Proverbs 13:15-16

21

Joshua 22:21-23:16
Luke 20:27-47
Psalm 89:14-37
Proverbs 13:17-19

22

Joshua 24:1-33
Luke 21:1-28
Psalm 89:38-52
Proverbs 13:20-23

23

Judges 1:1-2:9
Luke 21:29-22:13
Psalm 90:1-91:16
Proverbs 13:24-25

24

Judges 2:10-3:31
Luke 22:14-34
Psalm 92:1-93:5
Proverbs 14:1-2

25

Judges 4:1-5:31
Luke 22:35-53
Psalm 94:1-23
Proverbs 14:3-4

26

Judges 6:1-40
Luke 22:54-23:12
Psalm 95:1-96:13
Proverbs 14:5-6

27

Judges 7:1-8:17
Luke 23:13-43
Psalm 97:1-98:9
Proverbs 14:7-8

28

Judges 8:18-9:21
Luke 23:44-24:12
Psalm 99:1-9
Proverbs 14:9-10

29

Judges 9:22-10:18
Luke 24:13-53
Psalm 100:1-5
Proverbs 14:11-12

30

Judges 11:1-12:15
John 1:1-28
Psalm 101:1-8
Proverbs 14:13-14



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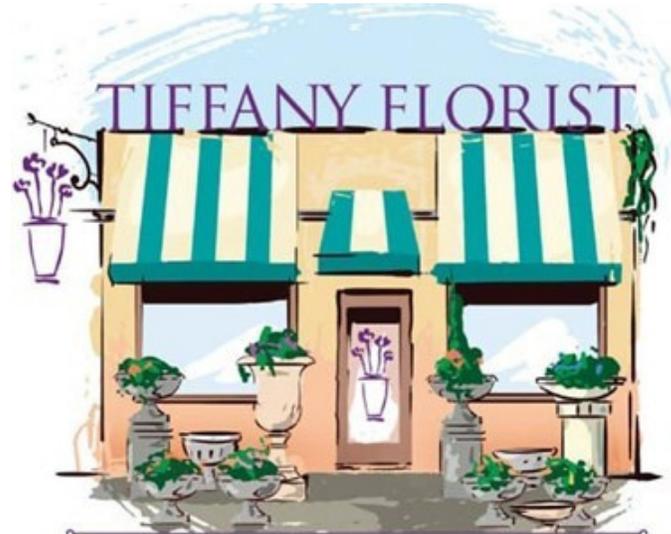
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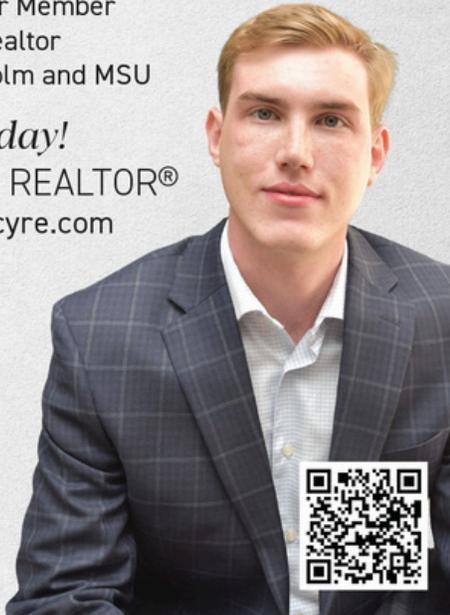
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April Birthdays

April 1

Dee Aebersold
Ray Meyer
Robert Petrillo

April 2

Debbie Bienkowski
Shane Held
Jan McIntyre
Katherine Rubel
Allison Schneider
Deb Thomas
Enzo Zuliani

April 3

Sean Amos
Avery Friedrich
Vincent Holland
Rebekah Sydorчук
Debbie Warnicke

April 4

Abigail Blook
Amber Drolet
Alex Pedersen
Stephen Priest
Judy Wagnitz

April 5

Kavin Kelkar
Anna Lewis
Judy Michalak

April 6

Laura Cardenas
Joshua Hugel
Katre Klow
Lisa Nagle
Nicholas Springer

April 7

Tyler Dorantes
Alexandra Evert
Dale Robinson
Carol Romeo
Grant Schneider
Alaina Smith
Walter Vowell
Debbie Wroe

April 8

Pastor Jimmy Greenwalt
Janet Henke
Lucas Ilitch
Collins Leischner
Trevor Malven
David Pflieger

April 9

Katherine Banerian
Andrew Geller
Kaitlyn Ziegele
Gordon Zimmer

April 10

Julia Conover
Jeffrey Couger
Kari Elliott
Alison Harrison
Traci Ricelli
Timothy Springer, Jr.
Gary Sullivan

April 11

Maria Behr
Amber Davis
Robert Esling, III
Robert Hoge
Emily Page

April 12

John Cobb
Bryan Dobbs
Grace Drexel
Brooklyn Kollsmith
Elyse Metikosh
Martha Waldron

April 13

Everett Kipley
Zack Learman
Eleanor Ortiz
Alexander Papa
Karen Rose

April 14

Tom Eley
Michael Suszan
Abigail Swanson

April 15

William Baker
Austin Niedzwiecki
John Schaffer, Jr.

April 16

Elliott Fleck
John Gaenssle
Jack Gardner
Charlotte Girdler
Chris Klow
Emma Kreil-McInnis
Clara Leahy
Catherine Leahy
Isabella Marshke
Sandy Roehm

April 17

Lance Harrison
Timothy Hawkins
Lynn Kartz
Elizabeth Mauger

April 19

Art Eckert
Max Falk
Joseph Hussey

April 20

Mike Bacon
Blake Baldner
Joe Conte
Vivian Claire Holland
Linda Laurain
John Ostrander
Michael Schultz
Maeve Trescone

April 21

Molly Ezis
Liz Lalone
Danielle LaRue

April 22

Stephanie Clifford
Gerald Hansen
Meredith Harrison
Millard Ryland

April 23

Karen Best
Kate Nash
Brenda Needham
D'Aun Norman
Nicole Olds
Steve Scheidt
Charles Snell
Colleen Tafel

April 24

Matthew Basset
Tatum Hamaty
Jeanne Hollis
Lauren Janness
Sawyer Kiriluk

April 25

Alyce Brown
Jim Compton
Megan Josifovski
Ben Kamm
Jane Leahy
Katy Muldoon
Ellie Raezler
Ray York, Sr.

April 26

Savannah Amos
Nicole Cornwell
Holden Kipley
Erin Mills

April 27

Maribeth Frincke
Ryan Kavanagh
Heather Sherk
Mark Suszan
Susan Tyler
Sophia Worden
Jean York

April 28

Kate Bassett
Kurt Doolin
Branden Kaline

April 29

Lucy Becker
Greg Girdler
Michael Raezler, Jr.
Samira Shaw
Chris Thompson

April 30

Zachary Bowers
John Conte
Tierney Flatter
William Geller
Kevin Russ

