LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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

THE LAM

anuary 2024

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas was so special as we worshiped and celebrated the birth of Christ for the second time in our beautiful new Sanctuary. As I shared with you on Christmas Eve, a story and tradition of La



Befana, I would like to re-share it for our message of the New Year.

Legend has it that on the 12th night of Christmas the Wise Men, on search for the baby Jesus, came to La Befana's home and asked for directions to the location of the Christ child. She did not know how to get there, but the Wise Men invited her to travel with them. She at first declined, stating she had too much housework as they could see from the broom in her hand. Later that night she saw the star that the Wise Men had talked about and were following and she regretted her decision. She left looking for the Wise Men, but could not find them.

She went home and picked up the broom that cost her everything. She wept and her tears fell upon the broom, giving the broom special power to fly. It is believed that on every 12th night she goes out looking for the Wise Men and the baby Jesus. She travels with gifts and as she makes her journey, stops at the home of children to bring them gifts; good gifts for good children and not so good gifts for the naughty.

I know it's only a tradition, but a sad one at that. She is forever lost, never being abletofind what she did not want in the first place. Forever searching, paying the price for a bad decision. Sometimes our lives can feel like that of La Befana, forever searching, but never finding, forever regretting and never having another opport unity.



continued on page 7

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 (ext. 119) Senior Pastor
Rev. James Greenwalt (ext. 117) Assistant Pastor
Rev. Ron Farah Pastor Emeritus
Gary Priskorn (ext.123) Dir. of Men's & Senior Ministry
Kitty Sweitzer (ext.111)Dir. of Women's Ministry
Nicole Olds (ext 124) Dir. of Children's Ministry
Steve SeGraves (ext.129)Dir. of Music
Laura Vowell (ext 121)Dir. of Family Life/Middle School
Confirmation/Outreach
Gia Scheidt (ext.120) Dir. of High School
Eric Wisniewski (ext. 120) Assistant Dir. of High School
Kim DavisDir. of Fellowship
Jim ComptonDir. of Handbell Choir
Pat Raezler (ext. 126) Dir. of Westmaple Nursery
Rose Kiehle (ext.116) Office Manager
Pam Tyndall (ext 118)Professional Staff/Office Liaison
Therese Scheidt (ext. 114) Office Coordinator
Laura Jones (ext. 110)Accountant
Counseling Center
Dr. Sandy Pourcho 248.568.6040 / Anna Lewis 248.224.0383
Fred Suczynski (ext.113) Building Maintenance

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

Stewardship Report

Weekly Attendance Averages				
Month:	Nov. '23	Nov. '22		
Weekly Attendance Averages				
Worship	449	438		
Bible Class	145	145		
Sunday School	23	26		
Monthly Attendance Totals				
Communion	472	459		
Visitors	51	20		
Month: Novembe	r 2023	2022		
Income and Expenses				
Income received	\$177,849	\$151,694		
Budget requirements	\$155,711	\$166,909		
General fund expenses	\$179,552	\$188,541		
YTD Fiscal-year income	\$566,133	\$540,153		
YTD Fiscal-year expenses	\$497,691	\$497,444		

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with specific promise а attached to it is, "Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land" (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication



of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of "you shall not murder"? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



donation will be on your Shelby statement.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS January 10

Feburary 14 (after worship) March 13 (after worship)

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETINGS January 24 March 27

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal in the new year. Renew our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. May we be transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit, leaving behind the old and embracing the new that you have in store for us. As we face the challenges of the coming year, grant us strength and courage. Help us to rely on your mighty power and to find our refuge in you. May we be steadfast in our faith, knowing that you are our rock and our fortress.

GIVE A MEMORIAL GIFT

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.

Often times, families would like to donate an item in memory of a loved one, (ie. paschal candles, benches, altar items, trees...any items the church may need). For more information on this, please contact Pastor Randy, the senior pastor.



How do I watch Sunday Services LIVE online?

- 1. Go to the church website www.redeemerbirmingham.org
- 2. Click the first *Vimeo* square on the front page of the website.



3. Click on the video that has the LIVE indicator. The indicator will appear when the service starts.

IMPORTANT NOTE: 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?

- 1. Go to the church website www.redeemerbirmingham.org
- 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 feel free to call the church office if you are having trouble viewing any videos.

NOTE: If you are having a difficult time hearing the audio on vimeo, press the closed-caption option to READ what is being said. The closed caption button is the CC (in a box) on the lower right of the screen

Mystery Prelude

Our very own Rick Helderop will play one of your favorite/meaningful songs in the Prelude spot at all the Sunday Services for that day (8am, 9am and 10:30am). It doesn't have to be a hymn! It can be your wedding song, a song that reminds you of a loved one, or even a catchy tune you just LOVE! Your name and the significance of your selection will be printed in the bulletin and the song will be revealed in the announcements. Sign up for one of the available Sundays on the front page of the website or scan this QR code to be taken directly to the form. It is \$10 and ALL PROCEEDS GO TO OUR MISSION FUND! Thank you for participating!



Flower Sign-ups Available!

Sign up now for either Altar or Lectern flowers in the Sanctuary or the Chapel. (Sanctuary/\$55; Chapel/\$50; Lectern/\$45) (Please leave the flower liners behind for the next week's flowers!!!) The signup charts are up on the Town Square bulletin board and are also available online via sign-up genius (links found on the front page of the website www.redeemerbirmingham.org by clicking the "Ways to Serve" box then the "Altar and Lectern Flower Signup" box). Once you sign-up, you will be contacted about a dedication/payment a month before your date OR you can fill out your dedication form and pay online with a link in the flower chart signup. If you need assistance, please contact the front office at 248-644-4010 or office@redeemerbirmingham. org and we would be happy to assist you!

PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP



Family Ushering

Your family can help out the congregation by ushering on a Sunday morning! You'll be handing out bulletins and passing the offering plates during the service. The job is easy enough that kids can help too... PLUS there will be an usher at the service with you to help you every step of the way! Sign up under the **WAYS to SERVE** box on the church website or contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbirmingham.org).

Be a Greeter*

Can you say "good morning"? Can you shake hands and smile? Do you have 15 extra minutes on a random Sunday morning? Are you looking for an easy way to service your church? Then YOU can do a very important outreach job... greeting! Redeemer is looking for volunteers to help greet at the Town Square doors before the 9am and 10:30am services. Grab a friend or your family! This is a great, easy way to get kids involved with serving the congregation. You can sign up under the **WAYS to SERVE** box via the church website or by contacting Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbirmingham.org).

Host a Coffee Hour*

We need volunteers to host coffee hour on Sunday mornings throughout the year! It doesn't have to be anything fancy, and we'll give you easy-tofollow directions on how to do everything! Grab some friends and do it together! What a GREAT way to serve your congregation! You can sign up under the **WAYS to SERVE** box via the church website or by contacting Kim Davis (248-613-4200).

Be a Reader*

Would you like to read the Old Testament and Epistle Scripture verses during worship? We need readers ages 5-95 for ALL worship services! You can sign up under the **WAYS to SERVE** box via the church website or by contacting the church office (office@redeemerbirmingham.org).

Acolyting & Crossbearing

The Redeemer Acolyte Program is a service requirement for students in the Confirmation program in grades 6-8, and open to all who wish to volunteer. We welcome new director Crissy Bienkowski who will replace our amazing, long-time director Pam Lucas. Welcome Crissy, and thank you Pam for your hard work and service. The new schedule is up if you'd like to sign up. You can sign up under the **WAYS to SERVE** box via the church website. If you have any questions, contact Laura Vowell at laura@ redeemerirmingham.org.



Scan QR code to go to **Redeemer's website** click on the **WAYS TO SERVE** box to sign up to **VOLUNTEER**

* signup are also available on the Town Square bulletin board

BIBLESTUDIES

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Rev. Ronald Farah - Romans (began Nov 26) - all year long Sundays, after 9am service (Scheidt Room)

New Member Class (fall and spring) Laura Vowell - *Sundays, 9-10am (Great Room)*

> Children's Sunday School Nicole Olds - Sundays, 10:30am (lower-level classrooms)

Redeemer Youth Group (High School)

Gia Scheidt & Eric Wisniewski - *Sundays, 7pm check instagram for updated information.*

Adult Bible Study

Pastor Jimmy - Tuesdays, 9:30am (Great Room)

Women's Bible Study

Kitty Sweitzer - Tuesdays, 6:30pm (Library) Begins January 9, 2024

Men's Bible Study

Gary Priskorn - Isaiah ***Zoom available** Wednesdays, 6:45-7:30am - all year long (Great Room)

Positive Parenting

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

Core Group (High School) Gia Scheidt - Wednesdays, 6-8pm (Youth Room)

Confirmation Classes

Laura Vowell - Wednesdays, 6-8pm (various rooms)

Young Adult Bible Study

Michael's house (3217 Maplewood Ave. in Royal Oak) text Michael Banerian to RSVP (248.925.7125). For more information on a particular study, contact the names indicated, check the bulletin announcements, or call the church office at 248-644-4010 for more specifics.

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 at 248-644-4010 ext. 119



POSITIVE PARENTING

Come and join Positive Parenting on Wednesday mornings at 9:15am, right down the hall from Westmaple. We are a group of Moms who 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 for free, and is available on a drop-in basis for any younger children.

Please reach out to Kristin Thompson (kethompson1@gmail.com) or Victoria Ilitch (victoria.ilitch@gmail.com) with any questions!

Sonshine Greeter Volunteers Needed

Redeemer has a wonderful tradition of celebrating our 80+ year old members on their birthday with a card, visit and a small gift. Cards, flowers and gifts are purchased by the church. Cards and gifts can get picked up in the church office and flowers can be picked up just down the street at Thrifty's. Some of our seniors just want a card mailed to them and some want a visit. It is a wonderful ministry we would love you to be a part of it! Contact Cherisse Baetz for more information 248-646-7359.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES Become a Member! If you are interested in becoming a member of Redeemer, please contact Laura Vowell (laura@ redeemerbirmingham.org). She will guide you through the easy process!

continued from page 1

During this Epiphany season and New Year, as we witness the of God power manifesting itself in and through Christ, we are reminded that in and through Him we have a second



chance. That in searching and seeking we shall surely find the way in Christ. Through Him, our sins of the past are forgotten and we are not doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past, nor pay a never ending price for the wrong we have done.

This Epiphany travel with the Wise Men, find along with them the Christ who has come to give us hope, forgiveness, and another chance on life. Don't end up like La Befana, doomed to a never ending story of hopelessness and regret. Second chances are still found in this Epiphany season as the power of God is shown in Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year! God Bless,

Parta Kart

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR MEMBER PROFILE!

Please make sure you login to **ShelbyNext Membership** to confirm/update your family's profile information OR send your updated information to office@redeemerbirmingham. org. (If you need your login credentials for ShelbyNext, reach out to the front office). You can download the **ShelbyNext Membership app** on your smart device (**redeemerbirmingham** is the domain name you enter) to have access to the directory and church calendar on the go (EVEN PASTOR RANDY IS USING THE APP!) or you can login to ShelbyNext Membership on your desktop computer.

**Please note, we no longer mail a printed directory because the information in our online directory is always current. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the church office at office@redeemerbirmingham.org.

When coming to any mid-week event at Redeemer, please use the TOWN SQUARE WEST ENTRANCE DOORS ONLY. All other doors will be locked during the day.

JANUARY Lamp



Fai^thful Friends

Five years ago, the Faithful Friends Ministry was developed. Our initial focus was pairing members of the congregation with members who are homebound offering periodic visits and sending the message that those members are loved and prayed for. Next, we

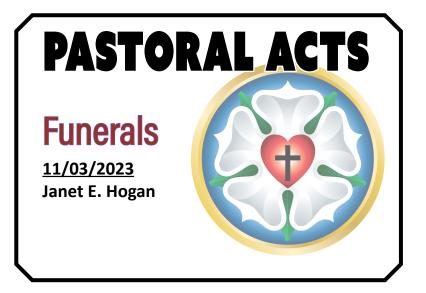
wanted to be a resource for caregivers offering guidance and support. This past year the Faithful Friends Ministry Team had a goal to increase the enrichment part of our ministry and provide more educational opportunities. Several times a year, programs are offered on Sunday mornings following the 10:30am service and limited to an hour. Our hope is that by providing information on these topics before they are needed, it will ease the stress that comes when decisions need to be made. We would like to thank our speakers and attendees for the informational and informative programs and discussions we have shared. Sessions are recorded and then posted on our vimeo site for people to watch at their convenience. Under the "Archived Services and Videos" box on our website, select the Faithful Friends box to view the videos. Below you will find a list of the topics/speakers.

- Signals and Signs for When to Get Help and available Senior Resources Diane Johns, Gerontologist
- Faithful Nourishment for the End of Life (two videos) Pastor Tyler Walworth
- What to Look for in a Senior Facility Margot Ladd, Samaritas Marketing Coordinator
- *Elder Care and Hospice Care* Leah Light, Social Work Director and Bereavement Coordinator.
- Estate Planning-Taking Control of Your Family Decisions Attorney David Mammel, with over 20 years of experience in establishing Wills, Trust, Powers of Attorney, and detailed estate plans.

Save the Date for our next Enrichment Talk on February 11th where Pastor Randy will be speaking on Planning a Funeral.

If you have a topic that you would like us to cover, please let any of the team members know and we will try and locate a speaker.

Happy New Year from our team: Gary Priskorn, Pam Tyndall, Marilyn Staargarrd, Diane Johns



"The Legacy of "Rosie the Riveter"

A special afternoon of fellowship, information and food is planned by the Prime Timers' group for **Sunday, March 3 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Great Room**. The special Guest Presenter will be Claire Dahl, a retired high school history teacher and member of the Yankee Air Museum Public Relations



Committee. Claire blends her love of history with inspiring and captivating stories of Rosie the Riveter and the Historic Willow Run B-24 Bomber Plant. Following the meal, we'll enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Michele Margosian! All are welcome to join us for a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon! There is no charge – a freewill donation will be received. Please sign up by February 26th on the Town Square bulletin board or call the church office – 248-644-4010. Questions? Contact Gary Priskorn.

Wednesday Lunch & Worship - January 17th

All are invited to join us for our 3rd Wednesday of the month "Lunch & Worship" on **January 17th** beginning at 12 noon in the Great Room. A delicious meal prepared by Michele Margosian will be followed with a brief worship service (1:00pm) in the Chapel



including Holy Communion. Please call the church office (248-644-4010) by January 15 if you plan to join us for lunch. Also, if you are in need of transportation, let the office know and we'll do our best to assist. Questions? Contact Gary Priskorn at the number above.

Alter Guild Ministry

Current and prospective Altar Guild Members, please join us on **Saturday, January 20th** at church from 9:00am – 10:30am for a continental breakfast, fellowship, and a presentation by Dr. Sandy Pourcho on *"Prayer and the Power of Praying"*. Please RSVP by signing up in the Town Square or calling the church office. We look forward to seeing you there! Kathy Eley and Karen Pridmore





Calling ALL YOUTH!

See page 15 for details on the YOUTH Jamaica Mission!



Kids Against Hunger Help feed hungry children Wednesday, January 24, 2024 Check out page 16 for the details.



SAVE THE DATE



Detroit Street Mission



Check out page 18 to see the amazing work the Chicks with Sticks contributed to the Detroit Street Mission!





SERVE AT FAMILY OF GOD!

We are in need of some volunteers to drive our Family of God meals down to Detroit

in the coming months. Grab some friends or your family for this awesome way to serve locally! The meal will already be prepared and packed up, so you'll just need to drive it down and serve it! This is also a GREAT way to get kids involved with serving others! Sign up under the **WAYS to SERVE** box via the church website or by contacting Laura Vowell (laura@ redeemerbirmingham.org). Looking to get more involved with Family of God this season? RYG (Redeemer Youth) is looking for someone to prepare our February 12th meal! Contact Gia if you're interested, 248-520-6407





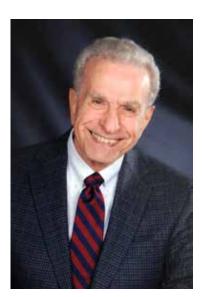
Join us and make a difference in someone's life.

JANURAY Lamp

MEN'S MINISTRY

Fellowship Breakfast Hosted by Men's Ministry Saturday, January 27th

Men and women of all ages are cordially invited to join us for our next Fellowship Breakfast hosted by Men's Ministry on **Saturday, January 27th, 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the Great Room**. A hearty breakfast is served in the Great Room at 8:00 a.m. and the program begins at 8:45 a.m. Our special guest presenter will once



again be Pastor Ron Farah, whose topic will be: *"Transitions-Part 2 – Personal Identity and the Ability to Deal with Retirement, Aging, Illness and Last Days".* It promises to be a thoughtprovoking and informative morning, as always. A freewill donation will be received. Please sign up by January 22 on the Town Square bulletin board or call/email Gary Priskorn (248-644-4010, ext.123/gpriskorn@ redeemerbirmingham.org).

Congregational Church Undecorating Day: Sunday, January Tth following the 10:30am service. You are needed and we would be so grateful for your company! The Chapel, Town Square, Sanctuary, Columbarium and exterior all need to be taken down and stowed away for another year. Please sign up on the Town Square bulletin board and help out. So appreciated!





January 7 Christmas Un-decorating

January 9 Women's Bible Study

> January 10 LT meeting

January 11, 19, 25 Chicks with Sticks

> January 15 MLK holiday

January 17 Wednesday Lunch and Worship

> January 19 JAMS Night

January 23 Women's Book Group

January 24 Kids Against Hunger

January 27 Men's Breakfast



NEW MEMBERS 2023

Ellen Ayers

Ellen started worshiping at Redeemer with some friends. She enjoyed it so much that she decided to officially join! Ellen grew up Lutheran and was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She joins us as a transfer from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. Welcome to Redeemer, Ellen!

Tom & Meg Gordy

Eric

Tom & Meg join us from the Methodist church across the street after some friends encouraged them to attend Redeemer's services. They loved that our teachings are Biblically sound! They



have a son, Eric, who is in college. Eric attended many JAMS events while in middle school. Tom works in investment banking and Meg works in retail. In their free time, they enjoy reading, running, traveling, and skiing.

Bryan Mortenson



Bryan and his family found Redeemer during the pandemic after enrolling their two children in Westmaple Nursery School. They started to worship with us regularly. Bryan's wife, Erin, and their two kids officially

joined Redeemer in the Fall 2022. This time it was Bryan's turn! He took the new member classes and is a member now too! Bryan works hard in investment management. In his spare time, he likes to travel, watch/attend U of M sports, dine out, and spend time with his children.

Jake & Brenda Needham

Jacev & Bailev feels like It the Needham family have been members forever! Jacev and Bailey were campers Redeemer at Summer Kamp and fell in love



with the Redeemer community. They both were extremely active in Redeemer's high school youth program—serving on multiple mission trips and are now on Kamp staff! Jacey now attends University of Toledo studying Pham D (Doctor of Pharmacy), and Bailey attends Western University studying Civil Engineering. Jake & Brenda both grew up Lutheran and are U of M fans! Jake works as a Design Quality Engineer and Brenda works as a teacher/intervention specialist in the Berkley School District. Jake is also a Lions fan and enjoys golfing. Brenda likes to garden, craft, and raise monarch butterflies.

Kevin & Sharon O'Reilly



Kevin & Sharon discovered Redeemer while their family was worshiping with Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf – they used to conduct their services in our Chapel. Both Kevin & Sharon are now retired and enjoy pickleball

and bicycling. Sharon is also an organist/pianist with experience as a music educator!

Jennifer Simonetta

Elizabeth

Jennifer and Elizabeth both came to looking Redeemer to make friends. Elizabeth will attend Westmaple Nursery School in the Fall of Jennifer grew 2024! Lutheran being up



baptized and confirmed. She works as an independent contractor and attends Redeemer's Positive Parenting classes. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys watching U of M football, reading, working in the yard, and hanging out with her husband and Elizabeth.

Chris Thompson & Jamie Mojak

Elyse & Collins



Chris & Jamie attended our Ash Wednesday service met and Pastor Randy and Andrea who gave them a tour of the church and they were instantly drawn in! Elyse attended VBS this past summer,

and Jamie volunteered in the craft room. Baby Collins was baptized at Redeemer this past October! Chris & Jamie both grew up Lutheran and would like their children to experience the community of a church like they did growing up. Chris works as a sales consultant and Jamie is the CEO of Ameilorate LLC. In their free time, they both enjoy spending time outdoors – Chris likes to golf and Jamie likes to play tennis.

Zack Reinbold

Zack grew up Lutheran and attended St. Lorenz church and school in Frankenmuth. He recently got married and moved to the area, and naturally, wanted to join a church community closer to home. After attending several services at Redeemer, it seemed like a good fit! Zack works at Rocket Mortgage in a leadership role. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, mountain biking, kayaking, hunting, and fishing. He also plays the piano!

Kevin & Emily Volckaert Brooke & Amanda



Kevin & Emily started attending Redeemer on Good Friday lin the Spring of 2023. They enjoyed it so much that they decided to transfer

here from Huntington Woods Lutheran Church. Kevin works as a senior accountant executive, and Emily works in marketing. Amanda is avoiding "senioritis" as a high school senior, and Brooke is enjoying college life!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Save the dates!!

Redeemer VBS 2024

June 17-21 Watch the Lamp and bulletin for more exciting information!

Scamper Camps Summer of 2024!

Children who are 2 years old by January 1st, 2024 through 5 years old. Once they have gone off to kindergarten, they are too old to come back. Sign up will start in February.







15 mile and Dequindre in Troy, MI

This is a circuit-wide event and is not being organized by Redeemer.





ALWAYS CHECK INSTAGRAM FOR ANY SCHEDULE CHANGES



FAMILY OF GOD

RYG cooks and serves on the 2nd Monday of the Month

> January 8th February 12

Come join us to help others

Looking to get more involved with Family of God this season? RYG is looking for someone to prepare our February 12th meal! Contact Gia if you're interested, 248-520-6407

RYG JANUARY Dates Sunday's from 7-9pm

> 01/07 no RYG on 01/14 01/21 01/28



Orientation Meeting Sunday, Feburary 4, at 4:00pm

Applications can be found in the main office, youth room, or outside Gia's office.

In A RELATIONSHIP with GOD Ø

RYG Core Group

Wednesdays in JANUARY- 6:00-8:00pm 01/03 & 01/10 & 01/17 & 01/24 & 01/31 RYG meets in the Youth Room Questions? Contact Gia or Eric.



February 8 Birmingham Musicale Concert

> February 9 Women's Bunco

February 10 Daddy Daughter Dance

February 11 Faithful Friends Enrichment-Planning a Funeral Birmingham Concert Band

<u>February 14</u> Ash Wednesday Leadership Team Meeting

February 17 and 24 Relationship Workshop

> February 19 President's Day

February 25 Young Adult's Group

February 27 Women's Book Group

See page 20 for full LENTEN Schedule of Worship and Meals





Don't miss out on all of this fun with your friends! Middle School kids in grades 6-8 are invited to the JAMS Game Night on **Saturday, January 19th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm!** Friends are always welcome! The cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door! Grab a permission slip from outside Laura's office or download one via the church website. Contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbirmingham.org) with questions or concerns.



Kids Against Hunger! Wednesday, January 24th

Redeemer is partnering with "Kids Coalition Against Hunger" to serve God's kingdom. KAH is a non-profit organization that uses volunteer efforts to provide prepackaged, nutritious meals to starving children in the United States and 40 countries worldwide. **LOTS of volunteers ages 5 – 95 are needed on Wednesday, January 24th to help pack 40,000 meals for KAH!** There are TWO SHIFTS... 4:30pm – 6pm & 6:15pm – 8pm. Please consider volunteering your time during one of the shifts and sign up via the church website or on the Town Square bulletin board. If you would like to donate money to the cause or have any questions, please contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbirmingham.org) or Pastor Randy.





FAMILY LIFE Ministries

This month we'll take a sneak peak at the history of our Family Life Ministry and its upcoming celebration in January 2025.

Redeemer has a long history of offering engaging opportunities for all to come together as families. Did you know that in 1994, under the direction of Joe Werner, Redeemer was named as a "Family Friendly Congregation" by the Lutheran Family Association?

Over the years, such programs as Positive Parenting, Growing Kids God's Way, and Marriage Enrichment have been sponsored here at Redeemer. Other programs such as the family life retreats, camping, and the Family Fun Fest will be highlighted with photos in January 2025. These days, our Family Life Program is led by Laura Vowell and programs such as "Shine the Light Night" and "ADVENTure" are widely attended.

More to follow next January!!

DADDIES AND DAUGHTERS

HUSBANDS AND WIVES



Daddy Daughter Dancel

Saturday, February 10th

stay tuned for details and sign-up! Questions?

Contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbrimingham.org).



Relationship Workshop

Make your relationships even MORE powerful with the tools that Pastor Ron Farah will share with you on **Saturday, Feb 17 and 24** from 9-12 noon. The cost will be \$80 (cash and check payable to Redeemer) at the door for the workshop, due the first session. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to glean from Pastor Farah all of his counseling and pastoral wisdom not to mention his own successful journey as a husband! Look for a signup sheet in January.



JANUARY Lamp

X/OMEN'S MINISTRY



CHICKS WITH STICKS

We hope you will find time to come to the library at Redeemer and share your talent or new interest in knitting or crocheting hats and scarves for the people of Detroit Street Mission.

Some of us are really good at this, some are pretty good at it, and some are just learning. But you should see what a simple scarf turns out to be in your hands. The Chicks with Sticks group will be meeting more days a month in 2024.

Tracey Fish is delivering the hats, scarves and mittens to the homeless in Detroit.

January meeting dates:

- Thurs, Jan 11 1:00 pm
- Fri, Jan 19 1:00 pm
- Thurs, Jan. 25 1:00 pm



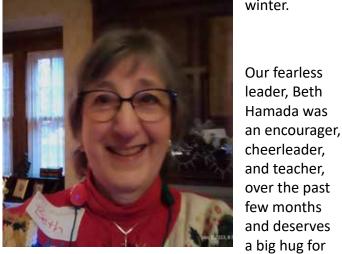


A homeless woman has received her gift from Redeemer's women

just in time for winter.



This colorful pile of yarn is an invitation to you to join us in the Library to continue to serve others.



wrangling our group. Thank you, Beth, for your big heart!

JANURAY Lamp



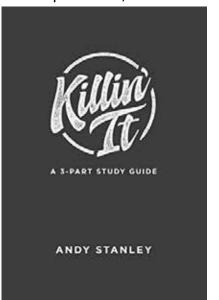
Our Woman of the Year 2023 is Kathy Eley and what a wonderful choice she was! Kathy cochairs our Altar Guild, serves in the kitchen, Palm Cross Workshop coordinator, takes very good care of everyone in her path and will be honored in March at the Council of Lutheran Women's annual meeting. If you would like to join Kathy at luncheon please let Kitty know. **Tuesday, March 19 at The Mirage located at 16980 18 Mile, Clinton Township. Tickets for the luncheon will be available via Eventbrite on or after January 15, 2024. Women's Ministry will provide a link for Eventbrite at that time.** Congratulations Kathy and many thanks for all your hard work and the love you bring to it.



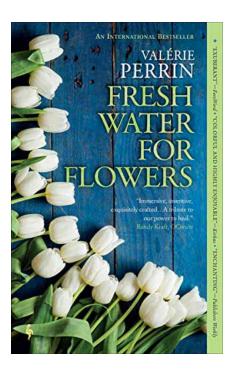
Women's Bible Study

Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study begins in the New Year on January 9 at 6:30pm in the Great Room. Come and hear one of our favorite study leaders, Andy Stanley with a three session study on pride entitled "Killin' It". Pride. It shuts us in and shuts God and others out. It keeps us from saying what needs to be said and hearing what needs to be heard. Join us, fellowship with us, learn with

us! Are you new? Reach out to Kitty to join in and see how much you will learn that applies to your everyday life. We are waiting for you!



The Council of Lutheran Women (CLW) Women's Auxiliary of the Lutheran Center Association honors you and so do WE!



Women's Book Group

Unfortunately, our favorite (and only guest speaker, Justin Sweitzer) will not be able to review our January book Fahrenheit 451.

Instead, we will read *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin. *Fresh Water for Flowers* is a saga of a woman's life from nothing to something...A story representative of many girls and women trapped by social and financial circumstances. You will be swept away by the poetic gentleness of the narration, by the generous gaze that the two protagonists cast over their humanness.....a story of life with love, loss, yearning, sadness and all the emotions people can experience in a lifetime. Join us on *Tuesday, January 23 at 7:30pm in the Town Square.* See you there!

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS

Spread the word! Wednesday, January 10, is our CRUSADER OPEN HOUSE. Prospective families with students at all grade levels are invited to learn more about us during this informative evening. Guided tours will cover the full range of the high school experience at Lutheran Northwest: Acclaimed academics, awesome athletics, amazing fine arts, active student life & leadership and, above all, a caring, Christ-centered family. Meet our administrative team, members of our faculty, and current students! Tours begin every 10 minutes from 6:30-7:30. (Plan an hour for the entire experience.) Visit our website at www.lutherannorthwest.com/ events to pre-register.

PEGIN YOUR CHILD'S PATH TO BECOMING A

CRUSADER: Have you already made up your mind to enroll your 8th grader at Lutheran Northwest? If you haven't yet applied, now is a great time to take this step! Our application is live at www. LutheranNorthwest.com/apply. Questions? Call our Admissions Office at 248-852-6677 or email mgutenkunst@lhsa.com.

Westmaple Nursery School Wrapping Paper Tube Collection

Westmaple is looking to collect as many wrapping paper tubes as possible for future projects and crafts. If you have any to donate, there is a box outside of the gym by the coat rack for you to place them in. (They are NOT in need of paper towel sized tubes). They will be collecting them through the end of January. Thank you for your help!





Intake Day: Saturday, March 2, 2024 Sale: March 8-10, 2024

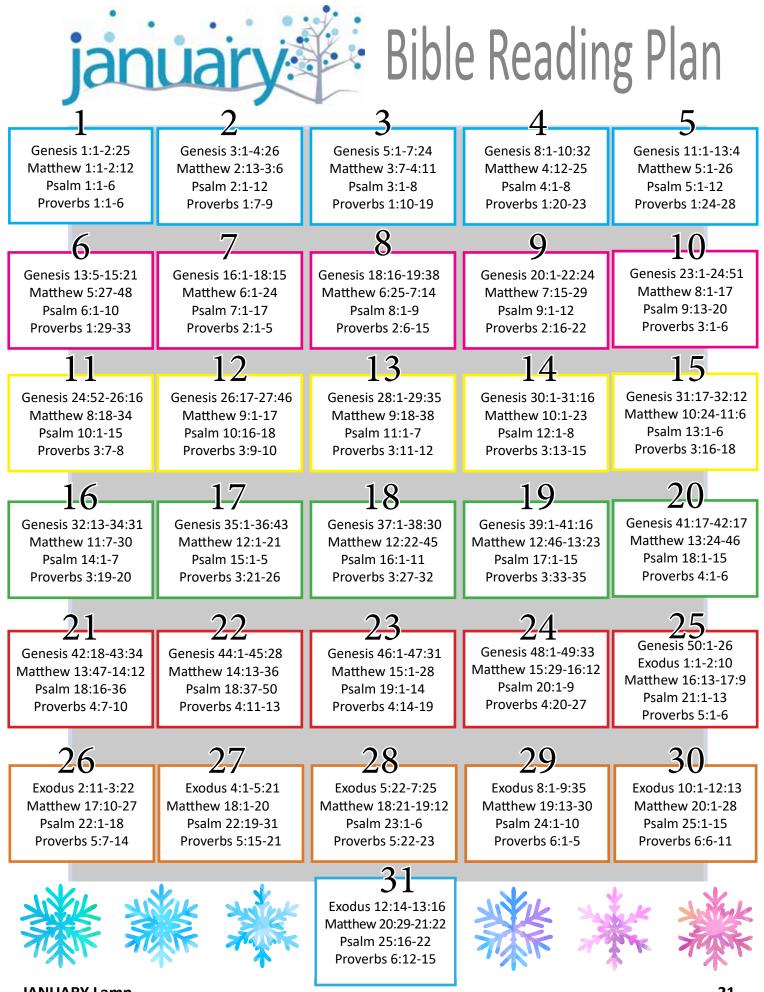
LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 14, Ash Wednesday February 21 February 28 March 6 March 13 March 20

1:00pm Chapel and 7:00pm Sanctuary Each worship service is preceded by a meal (12:00 noon and 5:30pm)

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 28 Good Friday, March 29 (1:00pm and 7:00pm each day). Easter Eve, March 30 5:00pm Easter Sunday services, March 31, 7:30am (Holy Communion at 7:30am only), 9:00am and 10:30am



JANUARY Lamp



MUSIC MINISTRY

All the wonderful music ministry groups at Redeemer are in full swing! The meeting times and places are listed below. 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 Choir

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 6:30pm to 8pm in the music room. Contact Steve SeGraves at 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 at summer 10:30am services. It provides opportunities for those who enjoy singing wonderful arrangements of contemporary Christian music. The Praise team meets Sunday mornings from September to May at 8am in the Sanctuary, and in the summer at 9am 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 who can play easy to moderately challenging pieces. Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary on Sundays at 11:30 after the 10:30 worship. Pastor Jimmy Greenwalt - 248-644-4010 ext. 117

REDEEMER RINGERS: Adult Bell Choir

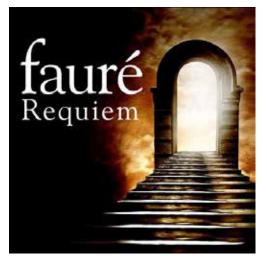
This group brings the unique and beautiful sound of bells to our worship services, sometimes joining with the Chancel Choir, Redeemer Brass or other featured instrumentalists. The Redeemer Ringers usually play on the fourth Sunday of each month and they rehearse on Thursday evenings at 6:00pm in the hand bell room! James Compton - 248-396-7635



Come sing or ring, or play an instrument for our God. If you need a ride to rehearsal, we will make sure you have one. If you need childcare for your children, it can be provided. If you can't commit every week, we will work with your schedule.

For Chancel Choir if you can't read music, that's ok. It is not a requirement. There is no audition. Join us for great fellowship and a wonderful opportunity to minister to the congregation. Come make music with us!

Faure Requiem on Sunday March 17th, 2024!



This coming March, your Redeemer Chancel Choir and soloists, along with professional orchestra and joined by the Concordia University Choir will present the Requiem by French Composer Gabriel Faure' at the 9am and 10:30am worship services. Faure' (1845-1924) has been described as "the most advanced composer of his generation in France." His music is timeless in its depth and beauty.

If you are interested in adding your voice to the choir to sing this beautiful work, you are invited to join the Chancel Choir in our Wednesday night choir rehearsals starting in mid-January, as we prepare the work for the services on March 17th (the Sunday before Palm Sunday). We will set aside the last half-hour of each choir rehearsal on Wednesday nights (7:30pm – 8pm) to learn the

Requiem. Listening tracks will also be made available to help you learn the work. Auditions for the Soprano and Baritone solos will be open to anyone who is interested. Audition dates and times TBA. If you've done this work before, we'd love to have you sing it again here at Redeemer. If it is new to you, we predict that it will become one of your favorites.

Come join us!



Happy New Year 2024! Can you believe it? Another year gone and a new one beginning. Any year comes with blessings, hardships, delights, challenges, and expectations. How will you see God in your life this coming year? As we think about God's faithfulness which is complete and everlasting, ponder how we each may grow in our own faithfulness by what we read and study.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY:

Praying the Names of God for 52 Weeks by Ann Spangler. Grow in intimacy and understanding of God as you study how He is named in the Bible. In ancient times titles meant a lot. English readers are not always able to fully understand God's qualities without knowing the original language, whether Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek. Author Spangler reveals God's essence and character by revealing His names and their meanings, from God Almighty (El Shaddai), Lord (Adonai), and Father (Abba), to Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Yeshua and more.

Arlo and the Great Big Cover-up by Betsy Childs Howard. Arlo has been a naughty boy. He did something during his rest time that he knew was wrong but did it anyway. He attempts to cover up his disobedience before his mom finds out. Uh oh! Mom finds out anyway and Arlo must face his sin, his attempts to hide it and learns the freedom forgiveness when he confesses. (ages 3-7).



The New Year is here and I might say, 2023 was a very difficult year on so many fronts. Suffice it to say, glad it's over and I'm looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us in this coming year. Worth repeating, is something that I have found to be a game changer for yearly expectations. I make a list every New Years Eve of prayer requests that I would like to petition our Lord to work on and provide closure to, in the forthcoming new year.

I base this practice on the Scripture Philippians 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" So, I write them out with lots of gratitude and acknowlegement of the things He did for me in the past year. Gratitude is underrated. So, I would counsel us all to step it up a bit with the gratitude towards God and the things He has done. As the Psalmist says "Let everything that hath breath Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 156:6) If you don't know how to start, just Praise Him!

I then pull out my list from last year and write down the answers to my petitioned requests with God. He is so faithful I am over whelmed by His tender care and answers even when some are still in the "wait" mode. This is a true exercise of walking in faith and can ease one's anxiety about the future. For the most part, anxiety is fear of what will happen in the future. What a comfort and privilege to be able to "give it all to God", and watch Him work.

In going to God in prayer not too long ago, I asked Him about a situation that was troubling me. I felt Him say to me, "Pray. Wait." When I pressed Him for more information all He said in closing was "Believe". So, Pray. Wait. Believe. "Believe" is the secret sauce to getting prayers answered. If we keep waiting, believing in expectation, expecting God to act in some way, then that act of faith motivates Him to act on our behalf. Just like what Jesus did when He was approached by a man in a crowd for help, Jesus told him to just believe and he replied "I do believe, help me in my unbelief." (Mark 9:23-24)

So, in closing, why not change the trajectory of your prayer life this coming year with more written out petitions and gratitude and believing that God WILL help you. Give Him your fears and trust Him to help you (Proverbs 3:5-7). See if that does not in some way reduce your anxiety. Be consistent, be intentional. FYI, reduction in caffeine intake (coffee, pop, tea) is another anxiety reducer!

Happy New Year! 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 Anna Lewis, LMSW 248-224-0383

Pastoral Counseling Rev. Farah 248-642-3137

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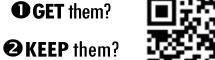


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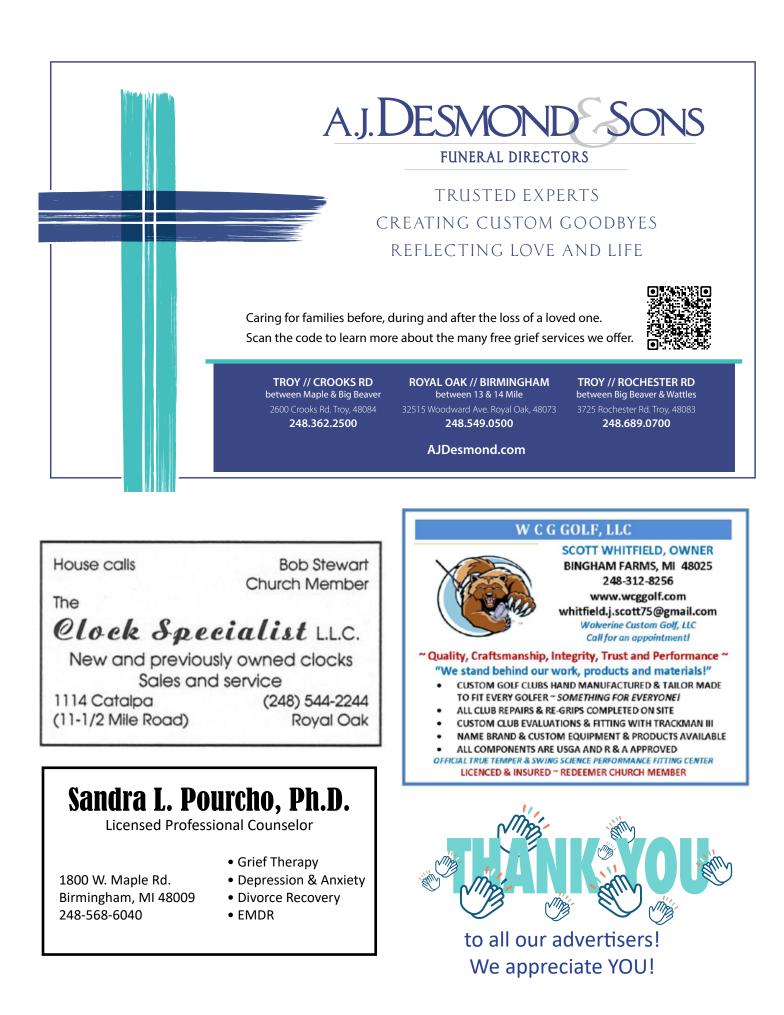


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January 1 Linnea Artelt Drew Dorantes Patty Jacobs Jim Noettl Kyle Silva Beverly Ann Yocum

January 2 Michael Ilitch IV Thom Johnson Kris Ortale Kristen Rolf Tyler Schulte Evan Turner

<u>January 3</u> Lili Ann Camden Millie Murdock

<u>January 4</u> Laura Schulz Caitlin Tobin

January 5 Matthew Leiser Debra Meissner Matt Vanderhoef

<u>January 6</u>

Lexi Beckeman Jack Cotter Rebecca Gersonde Elijah Kidder Mark Worden

January 7 Jack Lumsden January 8 Arden Baker Pollyanne Dux Laura Geiger Sarah Jane Lesinski Trish Oen Ruth Ortiz

January 9 Lauren Ackerman Caroline Claar Jill Denman-Duggan Brian Elliott Griffin Herdegen Zachary Smith

January 10 Dan Cook Henry Sutherland Allison Vazquez

January 11 Nico Calvenaso Maggie Greenwalt Peter Pridmore Thomas Morris

January 12 Joel Brockberg Neal Krentz Elke Kroenung Walt Sweitzer

January 13 Ellen Baker Sally Tyler Jack Vercnocke McKinlay Vercnocke January 14 Andrew Farah Susan Middeldorf Paige Schulte Alida Toth Eric Vanderhoef Garrett Vercnocke Matthew Warnicke

<u>January 15</u> Adam Niedzwiecki Pam Tyndall Dick Weir

January 16 Lucia Calvaneso Cheryl Chuhran Emily Dobring Dave Tyndall

January 17 Caitlin Buechner Mark Cycholl Andrew Pflieger Glenn Schuetz

January 18 Susan Dickey Lorelai Gallo Katie Harper

January 19 Gary Drolet Charlotte Finley Louis Hartzell Jason Hoover Timothy Moore Jeremy Nicol January 20 Natalie Rolf

January 21 Sandra Burnett Blake Dobbs Diane Dorantes Grace Guevara Dr. Jeff Middeldorf Ryan Nehls Cindy Noettl Michael Ziegele

January 22 Kate Dankovich Eric Girdler Robert Hoffdal Jim Junker Robert Lee Marilyn Ripson

January 23 Calvin Greer Kelly Greer Grace Kamm Allison Kavanagh Tayden Leischner Laura Sellnau

January 24 Brenda Boyce Curtis Burstein Sarah Harrison

January 25 Michael Conte Lily Doolin Mark Kent Gary Priskorn Pam Priskorn Trevor Schultz

January 26 Nash Kanka Courtney Miarka Jennifer Simonetta Cathleen Tice January 27 Daniel Cobb Kristen May Jane McMicking Daniel Miller Manfred Rumpel

<u>January 28</u> William Doyle Brady Tatai

January 29

Karen Cleaver Terri Fithian Rich Krentz Tony Kurnat Hailee Schuele

<u>January 30</u> Ken Baetz Tillie Browett Tina Conte Allison Leiser

January 31 Jeff Drexel Karen Gause Janet Harthen Nicholas Mushovic





