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When I was in 5th grade my report card was sent home, and my mother opened the envelope to the report card. Guess what? The grades were not good! She left it on the counter for my father and all my siblings to see! I wasn't proud. The grades were bad, but the comments from family were even worse. So I had a little conference with my father and asked him, "Dad, what do you think the reason is for my bad grades? Is it heredity or environment?" DISCLAIMER: not a true story!



The environment of the 16th century was confused about grace. Rev. Martin Luther ached to convey to the Christian people what grace is all about. When he found the freedom Christ had given him, "I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly." (John 10:10)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)

This reformation Sunday we are having a guest speaker in the pulpit, a son of the congregation, Dr. Geoff Boyle, who is doing important work in our church body. Parta Rusy See page 16 for Dr. Boyle's Biography

Join us as we welcome

#### THE DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR

(as seen on America's Got Talent) at the

"GRATE-Fall" Fun Fest on Friday, Nov 7th

fun carnival games, dinner and the Detroit Youth Choir Concert



See page 18 for more details how to RSVP and Volunteer!

#### 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 - Senior Pastor	ext. 119
Rev. James Greenwalt - Assistant Pastor,	ext. 117
Pastor of Adult Social Ministry	
Gary Priskorn - Dir. of Shut-in Ministry	ext. 123
Kitty Sweitzer - Dir. of Women's Ministry	ext. 111
Nicole Olds - Dir. of Children's Ministry	ext. 124
Steve SeGraves - Dir. of Music	ext. 129
Laura Vowell - Dir. of Family Life, Middle Scho	ool, ext. 121
Confirmation & Outreach	
Gia Scheidt - Dir. of High School	ext. 120
Eric Wisniewski - Assistant Dir. High School	ext. 120
Kim Davis - Dir. of Fellowship	248.613.4200
Pat Raezler - Dir. of Westmaple Nursery	ext. 126
Rose Kiehle - <i>Office Manager</i>	ext. 116
Carrie Morris - Office Coordinator	ext. 114
Laura Jones - Accountant	ext. 110
Fred Suczynski - Building Maintenance	ext. 113
Dr. Sandy Pourcho - Counseling Center	248.568.6040

#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

Mondays - 7:00pm (Chapel)

\*Livestreamed Service

#### **COMMUNION SCHEDULE**

1st & 3rd Sundays - 9:00am and 10:30am 2nd, 4th & 5th Sun./Mon. - Sun. 8:00am; Mon. 7:00pm

#### AUGUST STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Attendance Average	2025	2024
Worship	318	318
Bible Class	78	67
Sunday School	21	19
Monthly Attendance Totals	2025	2024
Communion	470	653
Visitors	58	38
Month: August Income and Expenses	2025	2024
Income received	\$150,826	\$91,264
Budget requirements	\$139,374	\$169,299
General fund expenses	\$174,698	\$170,527
YTD Fiscal-year income	\$2,107,962	\$2,048,167
YTD Fiscal-year expenses	\$2,151,291	\$2,019,278

#### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

#### HARMONIOUS STEWARDSHIP

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymnsinger into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

STEWARDSHIP - continued on page 3

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4-5).

The sound that builds when choral congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get high, and the baseline uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – LCMS.ORG/STEWARDSHIP

#### IN REMEMBRANCE



#### **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.

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

#### PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the beauty of this autumn month. As the leaves change and days grow shorter, help us to embrace this season of transition with open hearts and a spirit of gratitude.

We dedicate this month to You, trusting in Your perfect will and plan for our lives. Grant us courage, wisdom, and strength to navigate any challenges that arise, knowing that You are our fortress and our guide.

Fill our hearts with Your love and peace. May we be a light to others, sharing kindness and compassion, and may our lives be a testament to Your glory. Amen.



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!



#### THANK YOU FRED!

After 11 years of dedication and service, our beloved Fred is retiring. We thank him for the countless ways he has blessed all of us at Redeemer, and we wish him a happy, healthy, and joyful retirement!

#### **WELCOME CONNER!**

We are excited to welcome Conner, who is joining the Redeemer Family to help maintain and care for our beautiful building! Please be sure to say hello and introduce yourself when you see him around the building!



# LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE

The Lutheran Witness (LW) is the official periodical of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. Lutheran Witness provides Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, help foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each issue includes the Michigan In Touch (michiganintouch.com) supplement.

SUBSCRIPTION

If you are interested in an annual subscription for the upcoming year, please contact the Church Office.

\*Subscription sign-up and checks are due to the Church Office by Friday, November 14th.





Go to www.redeemerbirmingham.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 reoccurring gift. See Shelby instructions on our website under the Giving tab.

#### ADDITIONALLY...

Pastor Jimmy will be taking on the new role of Pastor of Adult Social Ministry. This new role will encompass some Men's Ministry events while adding on some Fellowship activities for all adults. Miss Kitty will remain as Director of Women's Ministry. The usual Men's Ministry activities such as Bocce Ball, and Men's Golf and Barbeque will continue under Pastor Jimmy. Pastor Jimmy has some new activities planned as well, including the "4 Gs," October skeet shooting at Bald Mountain, a November mocktail social event, future events at Top Golf, and possibly some pickleball training events. Stay tuned for more information!

Gary Priskorn will continue his love of teaching with Men's Adult Bible study. He will also focus on our Shut-in Ministry and give our seniors the additional attention they need, including the much needed visits our shut-ins always cherish.

## — JOIN OUR TEAM

#### in the church office

Redeemer is looking for a new Office Coordinator! We are looking for a creative, techsavvy individual to join the Church Office team a part-time basis (approximately hours/week). This individual must be personable, compassionate, and have a heart to serve, while also being driven, well-organized, have the ability to multi-task, and think critically. Past office experience is helpful but not mandatory; past design and/or social media experience is a computer experience is Onboarding and training offered while also learning through hands-on experience. If you or someone you know might be a good fit for this position, please contact Pastor Randy or Rose Kiehle in the Church Office.

## HAVE THE CHURCH DIRECTORY AND CALENDAR ON-HAND

You can download the ShelbyNext Membership app on your smart device and have access to the directory and church calendar on the go. (redeemerbirmingham is the domain name you enter)

Please contact the church office at 248-644-4010 or office@redeemerbirmingham. org if you need your account information in order to signin or if you need help setting this up. We are happy to help.



#### PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP



## How do I watch Sunday Services LIVE online?

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

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

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

Go to the church website.
 www.redeemerbirmingham.org



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

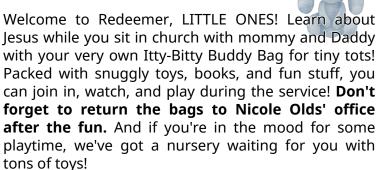
Please don't hesitate to contact the Church Office if you encounter any difficulties viewing videos.

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

#### **COMMUNION**

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

#### **ITTY BITTY BUDDY BAGS!**





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.



#### **SECURITY CALLS**

All exterior doors of Redeemer will be locked during business hours (Monday-Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm with the exception of school pickup and drop-off times). If you will be visiting the church during the week, you will be buzzed in by the Church Office staff. Please use the intercom button in the Town Square Narthex or the Chapel side door (door on the east side of the building); Westmaple doors can be used for preschool families during school hours (9:00am-3:00pm). Doors will mainly be locked during evening activities, as well, but may vary based on the event or ministry. For more information on our new security protocol, please contact the Church Office.

#### PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP





#### **VOLUNTEER AT REDEEMER**



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

#### **FAMILY USHERING\***

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

#### **ACOLYTING & CROSS BEARING\***

The Redeemer Acolyte & Cross Bearing Program is open to anyone who wishes to serve and is also a requirement for students in the Confirmation program. Crissy Bienkowski is our coordinator! You can sign up under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website. Please contact **Crissy Bienkowski** with questions or for more information (crissybienkowski@gmail.com).

#### **BE A GREETER\***

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

#### **BE A READER\***

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

#### ALTAR FLOWERS\*

Beautify our Sanctuary and Chapel with Altar and Lectern Flowers for a special occasion, or just because you love flowers. Altar flowers include two vases of flowers and Lectern flowers include one planter of flowers that will be yours to take home. Prices are the following:

- Sanctuary Altar: \$75
- Chapel Altar: \$55
- Sanctuary or Chapel Lectern: \$35

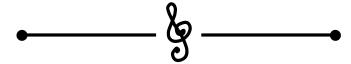
You can find the sign-up charts on the Town Square bulletin board or online under the "WAYS TO SERVE" box on the church website.

You can complete the dedication form and make payment directly online or follow the link in the confirmation email you receive. Alternatively, you can email your dedication to the **Church Office**, drop off your check at the Church Office, or leave payment in the Sunday morning offering plate **clearly marked** "Altar Flowers."

NOTE: Please remember to leave the flower liners and/or ceramic pot for the following week when collecting your flowers! There are disposable floral bags in the Sacristy you can use to place your flowers in. Sanctuary flowers can be picked up after Sunday's 10:30am service, and Chapel flowers after Monday's 7:00pm service. For assistance, please reach out to the Church Office for support.

#### **HOST A COFFEE HOUR\***

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



#### **MYSTERY PRELUDE**

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

Scan to Request a Mystery Prelude:

#### **BIBLE STUDIES**

#### **SUNDAY Bible Studies**

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - Kyle Chuhran 10am (after 9am worship) - Scheidt Room Book of Hebrews - Sunday morning adult Bible study, led by Kyle Chuhran, begins on Sunday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. We will be exploring the book of Hebrews. Come to learn from God's Word and from conversations with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### **NEW MEMBER CLASS - Laura Vowell**

9am - 10am - Great Room

Become a Member! If you are interested in becoming a member of Redeemer... now you can! Join us for our New Member Classes! Starting on Sunday 10/12, classes will run for 4 weeks on Sundays from 9am – 10am. We will end with a yummy New Member Brunch on Sunday 11/9! Come join us! Contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbirmingham.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!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - Nicole Olds During 10:30am Service - Lower-Level Classrooms

**REDEEMER YOUTH GROUP** (RYG - High School) - Gia

Scheidt & Eric Wisniewski 7pm - Youth Room



#### **TUESDAY Bible Studies**

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** - Pastor Jimmy **\*ZOOM Available** 9:30am - Great Room

**The Apocrypha/the Inter Testament Books (**We will be using "The Apocrypha The Lutheran Edition with Notes Study Guide.")

#### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - Kitty Sweitzer

6:30pm - Great Room -\*4th Tuesday starts at 6:00pm The Chosen - Season 5

Jesus speaks the words, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem," after he sees the temple in extraordinary disarray. He is dismayed and angry that his people have not listened nor learned from him and he sits in the candlelight preparing to challenge those who are responsible for the damage and disrespect he sees everywhere he looks. The Son of God, The Messiah, The Chosen One will take on the Pharisees, the moneylenders, and sadly those who waited for the King to ride into Jerusalem to rescue them from the Romans. Season Five of The Chosen is underway and it will be an experience in the last days of Christ. Please walk with us. Tuesday, October 7 at 6:30 for the next chapter in this one-and-only-kind of story.

#### **WEDNESDAY Bible Studies**

#### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Gary Priskorn \*ZOOM Available

Year-round, 6:45-7:30am - Great Room

**The Study of Genesis** Guys of all ages are encouraged to join us on Wednesday mornings from 6:45 – 7:30 a.m. in the Great Room or via Zoom as we study the book of Genesis. In addition to our study and great fellowship among the guys, we enjoy some delicious goodies, juice and coffee. For Zoom Log-in details or for further information, contact Gary Priskorn (248-644-4010 ext.123).

#### **POSITIVE PARENTING - Victoria Ilitch**

Weds, 9:15-10:45am - Great Room

Please join us for Positive Parenting, Redeemer's weekly exploration of parenting ideas and strategies. Throughout the school year we meet with the goal of furthering our spiritual growth, expanding our understanding of parenting philosophies and finding strength in the community of other women.

'Positive Parenting' meets Wednesday mornings from 9:15 AM - 10:45 AM in the Great Room. Childcare for children ages 0-4 is provided in the nursery.

Every class session stands alone, so feel free to join us as you can, no need to sign up in advance! Contact Victoria Ilitch (victoria.ilitch@gmail.com) with questions or for more information.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** - Laura Vowell 6-8pm - various rooms

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

#### **THURSDAY Bible Studies**

#### **WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY - Andrea Schlak**

Thursdays, 9:30-11am - Great Room

The Sermon on the Mount!

Please join us as we study 3 of the most impactful chapters of the bible, The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7.

We will explore the life of radical love and obedience we were meant to lead as followers of Jesus Christ. Even if you have studied this before, you will be amazed how this commentary speaks to the heart. The 9 week study will be a video based series, led by Jen Wilkin and facilitated at Redeemer by Andrea Schlak. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea at schlakandrea@gmail.com

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



"We would like to express our deepest thanks to all of the men and women who came to our house on August 23rd to clean up our front and back yards. Everyone worked so hard and completely transformed the yards from ugly and overgrown to trimmed and beautiful. You all did a fantastic job, way above and beyond all that we could ever have imagined. You all are truly God's instruments serving the Body of Christ. We are beyond grateful. We wish you God's blessings, Ron and Rosemary Ging"



Faithful Friends is a program where a member of the congregation is assigned an elderly person or shut-in Faithful Friend. This program is targeted to members who are less mobile. The Faithful Friend visits their person, calls, sends cards and oversees them on a regular basis (quarterly, monthly, or when time permits).

We have a volunteer need for a friend in Rochester Hills We have a volunteer need for a friend in West Bloomfield We have a volunteer need for a friend in Bloomfield Hills We have a volunteer need for a friend at Fox Run, Novi We have a volunteer need for a friend in Bloomfield Hills who'd like a ride to church.

Contact a Faithful Friend committee member for more information or to volunteer.

Pam Tyndall - 248-238-9097 - <u>ptyndall456@gmail.com</u> Marilyn Staargaard - 330-357-6735 -

mpstaar@gmail.com

Diane Johns - 248-539-2113 - jdns.johns@yahoo.com

Tracey Fish - tbackfish@gmail.com

Cheryl Carr - cherylcarr1222@yahoo.com

# THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SCHEDULE GIVE THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 26th - 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27th - 9:00am
\*Friday, November 28th - Church Office Closed



**December 7 -** regular worship services including A Look Around the Manger-ADVENTure after the 10:30 am

**December 14** - regular worship services

Lessons & Carols - all services

December 21 - regular worship

King's Brass Band with our very own Chancel Choir during 9:00 & 10:30 am King's Brass Full Concert at 3:00pm

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

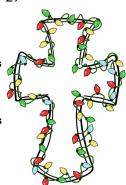
December 28 - regular worship services

Monday Regular Worship on December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Sunday Regular Worship Services

8:00 am - Chapel 9:00/10:30 am - Sanctuary

Monday Regular Worship Services 7:00 pm - Chapel



#### **ALL SAINTS' DAY**

In keeping with an old All Saint's Day tradition, during our worship services on November 2nd and 3rd, we will remember the following people who were born to the Church Triumphant in the past year.





\*PLEASE NOTE: During the service, there will be a time for anyone who wishes to come to the altar to light a candle to memorialize a loved one.

#### **CHURCH EXTENSION FUND** 4

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

#### Why Should I Invest at Church Extension Fund?

When an individual or congregation invests at CEF, they help to build churches and schools across Michigan. The invested money is used to make construction or renovation loans to churches, like the CEF loan Redeemer has, that made Sacred Space 2 possible. The interest paid back on those loans helps pay the interest on your investments. Your investment at CEF will build a church, school, or other ministry. When you invest at a bank, you will build another bank building. Your investment at CEF runs into eternity! It's a win-win for everyone! For more information call Curtis Burstein at 248-320-5100, our Redeemer Representative.

Updated Interest Rate sheets for July are available around the building.

#### Do you have a College-Bound Student?

Now is the time of year many parents are filling freshmen pockets or thinking about their student's future plans. How about getting a CEF Extension Plus Debit Card? Opening an Extension Plus Account is a great way to provide dollars for college students with easy access to the funds. For college students, it's a perfect solution. Parents can give college students a fixed budget (there is no credit associated with the card), and the whole family participates in the ministry of Church Extension Fund. Your account will be earning competitive rates of interest while building places for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be shared.

For more information, contact Curtis Burstein at 248-320-5100 or call toll-free 800-242-3944.

## NOVEMBER EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### **November 2**

Daylight Savings Ends All Saints Day

#### November 6

Chicks with Sticks

#### November 7

Grate-Fall Fun Fest

#### **November 11**

Veteran's Day

#### **November 12**

Leadership Team Meeting

#### **November 13**

The Birmingham Musicale Concert

Angel Tree tag Day

#### **November 14**

JAMS Lock-in

#### **November 16**

Bethlehem Carvings Available for purchase

**Ukrainian Music Concert** 

#### **November 16**

Angel Tree going up

#### **November 19**

4 G's Lunch and Games Christmas Decorating Setup

#### **November 20**

Chicks with Sticks

#### **November 21**

Shak'n with the Spirit (Mocktails)

#### **November 22**

Family Night - Make Your
Own Pizza

#### **November 25**

Christmas Decorating/Chapel

#### **November 26**

Thanksgiving Eve

#### **November 27**

Thanksgiving Day

#### **November 28**

Office Closed

#### **November 29**

**Christmas Decorating** 

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

#### **MISSIONS**





ON A MISSIO

#### **Needs Volunteers!**

#### JOIN CAMP RESTORE DETROIT ON THE THIRD (3RD) SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR A SERVICE DAY!

People of all ages are welcome - individuals, families, and groups - come by alone or gather your loved ones!

Some things to know before you come...

- Volunteers will serve from 9:30am-3:00pm.
- Bring a sack lunch and a refillable water bottle.
- Dress for the work and the weather some projects may be outside.

For more information or questions, contact Tanya Karn (tanya@camprestore.org or 313-636-4422 ext. 1.)



Thank you for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer's generous gift toward the Texas Flash Flood relief efforts. May God continue to bless your ministry and our partnership in the Gospel.

Our disaster response ministry in Texas has concluded, and I am humbled to share what God has accomplished through this work. While the initial response phase is complete, our focus now shifts to long-term rebuilding and recovery for those affected.

Already, by God's grace, the ministry has been able to provide:

- 1,365 Gift Cards
- 1,397 Bibles
- 68 Vehicles
- 47 Campers
- 153 Appliances
- 177 Furniture Assistance

Though there is still much to be done, these early steps remind us of God's faithful provision and the hope He brings to those in need. May we continue to lift this community in prayer as He brings restoration in the months ahead.

#### **Family of God**

Redeemer partners with Family of God, a Lutheran Church in southwest Detroit that provides meals to those in need 6 days a week! Redeemer provides meals 2 times a month to Family of God. **YOU can help provide these meals in MANY different ways!** 

#### **GIVE**

By signing up to sponsor Family of God, (\$100), you would be helping feed those in need. The \$100 would be used to purchase groceries/supplies to make the meal for that month. EVERY dollar makes a difference in someone's life.

#### SHOP:

Volunteers are needed to shop for ingredients for the meals a day or two before we're scheduled to bring a meal to Family of God. You can use Redeemer's GFS account or save your receipts to be reimbursed by the church. We store ingredients in the church kitchen until they are used.

#### **HELP PREPARE A MEAL:**

You can use the church kitchen to prepare a meal that is already planned by someone else. All ingredients have been purchased, we need you and your crew to put it together and cook it. OR, if you prefer, you and your crew can prepare a meal that you planned and shopped for.

#### **DELIVER AND SERVE:**

To deliver and serve the meal at Family of God is a life changing experience. You would meet in the church kitchen to pack your vehicle(s) with an already prepared meal and drive it to Family of God in southwest Detroit (directions are provided). You will stay and serve the food to the community, many take to-go containers. The Family of God staff is there to direct and help you in any way needed. The drive to Family of God takes about 40 minutes, and the serving/light clean up typically wraps up in an hour. If you prefer, you can be paired up with someone who has done it before.

#### **PREPARE FROZEN MEALS:**

Plan and prepare a frozen meal to feed at least 75 people. We will give these meals to Family of God to use when no one is signed up to bring a meal for them. This can be funded by Redeemer, if needed.

#### **MAKE BAGGED LUNCHES:**

Purchase and assemble 50 bagged lunches. Family of God will distribute the lunches to the homeless in Clark Park (southwest Detroit). This can be funded by Redeemer, if needed.

Choose one or more of the ways above to help! This is also a GREAT way to get kids involved with serving others!:)

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbirmingham.org).

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

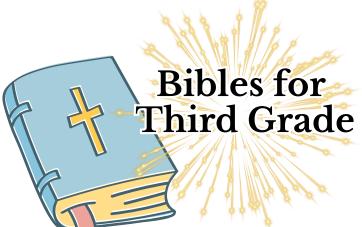
#### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

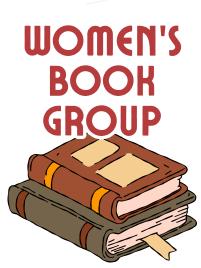
Fall Sunday School is well underway. Sunday School runs during the 10:30 service every Sunday. If you have a child who is now 3 or you are new to Redeemer, please reach out to Nicole Olds so you can be added to our email list. The more kids the better!! nolds@redeemerbirmingham.org

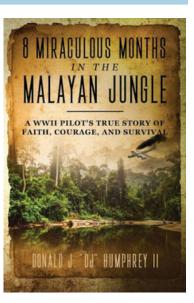


If you are interested in teaching Sunday School, please contact Nicole Olds. You do not need to be a Bible scholar...just have a love for God and a love for kids! I provide everything you need to create a fun morning of fellowship and growing in God's Word. NOTE: You would not be teaching every week unless you want to. I am looking for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers so you can even pick your favorite age group! Our typical rotation is 5 weeks of teaching and then 10 weeks off. You would teach 2-3 rotations throughout the school year.



3rd graders it's finally your turn to receive your very own Bible! We will have a class for parent(s) and 3rd graders on Sunday, October 26 at 9am in the Scheidt Rooms. We then invite you to attend the 10:30 service to have the Bibles blessed and celebrate Reformation Sunday. The kids will get to use their Bibles during Sunday School too! If you haven't gotten an email about the event please contact Nicole Olds at nolds@redeemerbirmingham.org.





Women's Book Group will meet on **Tuesday**, **October 28 at 7:30am** in the Town Square to discuss 8 Miraculous Months in the Malayan jungle: a WWII Pilot's True Story of Faith, Courage, and Survival by Donald Humphrey.

On January 11, 1945, Major Donald J. Humphrey had his B-29 Superfortress directed at Singapore Island. After navigating the 1900-mile trip from India through dangerous weather, they had just successfully bombed their target. And that's when Japanese Zeroes shot off the wing and sent the mighty aircraft death-spiraling into the Malayan jungle. Jumping to safety, Humphrey and a few of his remaining crewmates found themselves lost in the middle of occupied territory. Enduring vicious crocodiles, deadly snakes, and crippling malaria, the Americans battled just to stay alive. And though they made contact with Malayan resistance fighters, they could never be sure their benefactors weren't pulling them even deeper into danger...

In this harrowing true account, Major Humphrey's son shares the extraordinary story of his father's grueling ordeal. Told in the first person, this highly personal narrative puts you inside the mind of a man fighting for his country while struggling to survive. 8 Miraculous Months in the Malayan Jungle is a gripping memoir about overcoming unexpected peril. If you like World War II heroes, incredible stories of courage, and inspirational reads, then you'll love Donald "DJ" Humphrey II's captivating biography of his father.

#### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

## **WOMAN OF THE YEAR!**

Nominations for Woman of the Year are due on Monday, November 10. Please consider writing a letter in praise of someone you think embodies all the elements; tireless dedication to her family, church and community, a loving servant of others and a wonderful example of faith in action. Please send your nomination to Kitty at Redeemer and our staff will discuss and vote. Every woman nominated is worthy of this recognition as well as those who are not. We are indeed blessed at Redeemer with an amazing group of women who serve selflessly and this decision is always a difficult one. announce our selection at Advent by Candlelight and our 2025 Woman of the Year will be honored at a luncheon in March through The Council of Lutheran Women. Questions? Ask Kitty.



Jesus speaks the words, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem," after he sees the temple in extraordinary disarray. He is dismayed and angry that his people have not listened nor learned from him and he sits in the candlelight preparing to challenge those who are responsible for the damage and disrespect he sees everywhere he looks. The Son of God, The Messiah, The Chosen One take the Pharisees. will on the moneylenders, and sadly those who waited for the King to ride into Jerusalem to rescue them from the Romans. Season Five of The Chosen is underway and it will be an experience in the last days of Christ. Please walk with us. Tuesday, October 7 at 6:30 am for the next chapter in this one-and-only-kind of story.

### Advent by Candlelight sign-up

October 19, 2025 at 7:30am



Advent by Candlelight Sign Up! It's that time of year when the world falls in love; every song you hear seems to say, "Merry Christmas......" and we are already planning for you and your friends and family to join us in an amazing God filled evening as we move to Advent together. Sign up for a table on Sunday, October 19 at 7:30 a.m. in the Town Square and library. When you arrive, sign-in on the clipboard and when your name is called come into the library and meet your ABC team and pick your table. You may proxy for one friend. Tables go fast so don't wait to sign-up. Don't know what, why, how or what-to-do? We have a brochure that answers all the guestions in the box outside Miss Kitty's office door. You can do it and you will be so glad you did.



**Get those knitting needles ready!** - Chicks with Sticks meet two times a month on Thursdays. We're excited to continue to knit and crochet wonderful pieces for the homeless people of Oakland and Wayne Counties. We will see you on Thursdays, **October 2**<sup>nd</sup> **and 16**<sup>th</sup> **at 1:00pm in the Library.** 

#### YOUTH

RYG
HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP

OGTOBER

RYG Events

10/5 - Bible Study, 7/9pm Retreat permission slips due

10/12 - Pumpkin Carving, 7-9pm

10/13 - Family of God, 5-8pm.

Meet in church kitchen.

10/17-19 - Fall Retreat at Camp Skyline

10/19 - No Youth Group

10/26 - Murder Mystery, 7-9pm

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

#### **FAMILY OF GOD**

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!



October 13 November 10 December 8

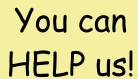


The high school fall retreat is

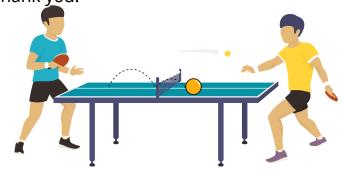
October 17-19 at Camp Skyline.

Permission slips are in the youth room. The Early Bird deadline (for \$80) has passed, but I'll honor that rate for first time retreaters!

Regular deadline is October 5th (for \$95)



Have a ping pong table collecting dust in your basement? Youth Group is looking for an upgrade - ideally one with wheels! We'll even come pick it up from you, it's a win-win! Please text Gia with pictures at 248-520-6407. Thank you!





"redeemer\_y00th"

ALWAYS CHECK
INSTAGRAM
FOR ANY SCHEDULE
CHANGES

#### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

All the wonderful music ministry groups at Redeemer are back in full swing starting the first week of September. 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 or playing 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 7:00pm in the hand bell room! James Compton - 248-396-7635

HAS GOD GIVEN YOU MUSICAL TALENT? GIVE IT BACK TO HIM!

Not everyone is blessed with musical talent. If you have musical ability but aren't yet participating in a music ministry group at Redeemer, you are missing out on the opportunity for God to use your musical talent for His glory. And we are missing out on you!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Colossians 3:16** 

#### **FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY**



Shine the Light Night! Families with kids of all ages are invited to our Halloween event, Shine the Light Night! Join us on **Sunday, October 26**<sup>th</sup> **from 3pm-5pm** for a fun afternoon of trick or treating around the church, photo-ops in costume, yummy snacks/treats, dancing, and a charity project. Come in your Halloween costume (adults too!) and be a part of this fun event! Bring a friend or two! Sign up on the church bulletin board or via the church website. Contact Laura Vowell (<u>laura@redeemerbirmingham.org</u>) with questions.

#### Shine the Light Night - Volunteers!

We need help from congregation members of all ages to make this event a SUCCESS! Please sign up via the church website or on the Town Square bulletin board if you would like to help out with decorating a doorway for trick or treaters, set up/clean up, running games, etc. Confirmation kids... you can get service hours for this!

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Look Around the Stable – A Family Event is coming on Sunday, December 7th, directly following the 10:30am service.

A church-wide, everybody comes, everybody participates Advent journey!
Signing up is necessary to join us for a yummy meal, meaningful craft making, service projects, and MORE!
More information to follow – stay tuned!
Questions? Contact Laura Vowell
(laura@redeemerbirmingham.org) or Nicole Olds
(nolds@redeemerbirmingham.org)

#### LIBRARY LIGHTS

Happy October! The weather is cooling down and the days are getting shorter which means more time for snuggling under a blanket and reading! We hope to help you find your next perfect selection in our library.

Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World is a new bible study by Restore International founder, Bob Goff. This 5 session bible study features short video segments on DVD, guided group discussion questions that include bible passages and a section for personal reflection, prayer and weekly challenges to "put love into action". This bible study is a wonderful option for small groups looking for inspiration on demonstrating Christ's love in action.

If you are looking for an inspiring Historical Fiction series look no further than the *Courage to Dream series* by Susan Anne Mason. *Irish Meadows*, book 1 in this 3 book series introduces us James O'Leary is an Irish immigrant with a very successful horse farm. Through all of his struggles and challenges he is determined to see his daughters marry well and continue the legacy he started. His daughters must decide if they will follow their hearts and dreams or their fathers. Each subsequent book features a new generation of family.

One of our newest books in the Youth section is *I Am: 40 Reasons to Trust God* by Diane Stortz. This book is a fantastic in depth look at who God is. Part story book, part devotional and part historical reference, this book starts each chapter with a bible passage then explains what is happening with a short story to pull the reader into the scene. At the end of each story is a prayer, a lesson that connects the story to everyday life, a suggestion for continued reading from the bible and a brief summary of what happens next in the bible.

Come and Check Out something new at our library!

Happy Reading!



#### FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### "GOURMET, GRUB, GAMES, AND GAB" – OR "THE 4 G'S!"

Lunch and Worship, as we've known it, is transforming into "Gourmet, Grub, Games and Gab!" We're going to continue to have our gathering with a delicious lunch, but instead of the worship service we've had in the past, we will be playing games! We'll gather the third Wednesday of each month in the Great Room, next meeting is October **15**<sup>th</sup> at **12 noon** with a delicious lunch prepared by Michele Margosian! We will be served Oktoberfest fare: Beer Cheese Soup, Glazed carrots, Brats, Sauerkraut, Potato Pancakes and Apple Strudel for Desert, followed by the Dice Game, Hearts! We're wonderful fellowship excited for this opportunity it will provide! Sign up on the Town Square bulletin board.





(FALL PROGRESSIVE DINNER)

Looking for happy hosts and hostesses for our Harvest House Hop on **Friday, October 17**. We need a host for happy hour, 5 dinner hosts and one host for dessert.

#### **Happy Hour Host**

mocktails, cocktails, pop with guests bringing appetizers

#### Dinner Hosts

provide a main course
with guests bringing salad and rolls
\$25/couple

#### **Dessert Host**

Hummers and desserts brought by guests and event leaders

This is a great way to get to know people, have fun, have dinner and share the evening. Call Kitty for more details and be the first to host at your home.

misskitty@redeemerbirmingham.org



#### Shots with Pastor Jimmy October 24th

No not those kind of shots. We will be skeet shooting at Bald Mountain. (Weather permitting) We will use one of their sporting clay ranges. You can rent a golf cart to navigate the course. Please see me or Ron Curcio with any questions.

**+ [] [] (** 

#### Shak'n with the Spirit Making Mocktails - November 21st

Come and join the Social Ministry **Friday**, **November 21st** for fellowship and learning how to make

Mocktails! Perfect before the holidays. Bring an
appetizer, doors open at 6pm. See Pastor Jimmy for
any questions.



FUTURE EVENTS TOP GOLF, PICKLEBALL TRAINING, MORE EVENTS TO COME.

#### DR. GEOFFREY BOYLE - BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Geoffrey Boyle was called to the faculty as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary and as Director of Field Education in 2022. He earned a B.A. in History and Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies at the University of Michigan (2005), M.Div. at CTSFW (2009), and Ph.D. through Wycliffe and St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto (2019). His thesis is entitled, "The Real Presence of Christ in Scripture: A Sacramental Approach to the Old Testament."

He was ordained and installed as senior pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kansas in 2010, where he served until joining CTSFW in 2022. He has authored articles for Concordia Theological Quarterly, the Journal of Scriptural Reasoning, and Lutheran Theological Review. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Society of St. Polycarp, and the Eighth Day Institute. With a facility for the Spanish language, he also teaches occasionally for Seminario Concordia El Reformador – República Dominicana.

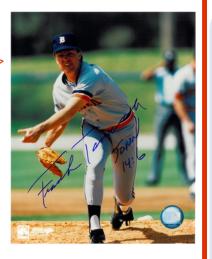
He and his wife, Nicole, are the proud parents of five children, Ana, Claire, Gabriela, Micah, and Brigit.

#### **FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Fellowship Breakfast** Saturday, October 25th 8:00 a.m. in the Great Room



Men, women, youth of all ages are invited to join us for a hearty breakfast served at 8:00 a.m. with the program beginning at 8:45 a.m. We are pleased to announce that our special guest presenter will be former Detroit Tiger pitcher, Frank Tanana who will not only share about his professional baseball career but also his faith walk and the role of Christ in his life! It promises to be an interesting, motivating and inspirational morning! Bring a friend and join us – all are welcome! Please sign up on the Town Square bulletin board. Questions? Contact Gary Priskorn



#### YOUTH



## JAMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

## JAMS Lock-In!

Let's stay up late! All middle school students going into grades 6-8 are invited to join us for lots of pizza/pop/snacks/ice cream, dodgeball, Aliens in the Church, Bible Study, movies, games, and MORE! It all happens on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>! Get dropped off at 6pm and picked up the next morning at 9am. Cost is \$20 for advanced registration or \$25 at the door. Friends are welcome! Grab a permission slip from outside Laura's office or download one via the church website. Contact Laura Vowell (laura@redeemerbirmingham.org) with guestions or concerns.



## JAMS Game Night!

Dodgeball! Aliens in the Church! Pizza! Ice Cream Sundaes! AND ■ MORE! 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 Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 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 guestions or concerns.

#### October 2

Chicks with Sticks Young Adults Bible Study

#### October 8

Leadership Team Meeting

#### October 9

The Birmingham Musicale Concert

#### October 10

JAMS Game Night

#### October 12

Fall New Member Class Begins Birmingham Concert **Band Fall Concert** 

#### October 13

**FOG** 

#### October 15

4 G's-Gourmet, Grub, Games, & Gab

#### October 16

Chicks with Sticks

#### **October 17-19**

**RYG Fall Retreat** Harvest Hop House

#### October 19

Advent by Candlelight Sign-up **Detroit Lutheran** Singers Fall Concert

#### October 22

Family Service Night

#### October 25

Fellowship Breakfast

#### October 26

Third Grade Bible Blessing Shine the Light Night

#### October 28

Women's Book Group



## JOIN REDEEMER IN CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

5:30pm: Children's Carnival Games

6:00pm: Hot Dog Dinner 7:00pm: Detroit Youth Choir



8:00pm: Cookie Afterglow

There is no charge for any event.

Free will offerings gladly accepted to defray costs.



## SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS FUN EVENT AND TO RSVP TO THE FUN FEST

#### **HOW CAN I HELP?**

Join the fun on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30pm with Kids Carnival Games; 6pm Hot Dog Dinner and 7pm concert performed by Detroit Youth Choir (YES, as seen on America's Got Talent!) & 8pm Cookie Afterglow. The entire evening is FREE!

Here are ways YOU can help...

- 1. Grab a HAND off the giving tree in the Town Square and bring in a food or monetary donation.
- 2. Volunteer to **create Carnival Game, COLOR MATCH**: Table is filled with many small plastic bowls of different colors, kids throw ping pong or similar balls into the table trying to match 2 of the same color bowls.
- 3. Volunteer to **create Carnival Game, MAKE 3 POP CORN**: 3 popcorn bowls at the end of the table, kids throw 3 'popcorn' balls and you must get all 3 into the bowls to win. Contact Andrea Calvaneso <u>AECalvaneso@gmail.com</u> to discuss details.
- 4. We need to borrow: (1) plastic kiddie golf putter; (2) Junior Golf Putters; (2) Mini Nerf Footballs. Contact Andrea Calvaneso <u>AECalvaneso@gmail.com</u> if you have one to loan.
- 5. Volunteer to be a **GREETER** that evening to welcome the community into our building. Various shifts available. Contact Crissy Bienkowski <u>crissybienkowski@gmail.com</u>
- 6. Volunteer to be a "CARNIE WORKER" by running one of the 15+ Carnival Games. Shift: 5pm to 6:45pm and still have time to grab dinner and see the concert! Confirmation kids + a parent, HS students, adults, anyone! Many volunteers needed! Contact Heather Calvaneso <a href="https://example.com">HCalvaneso@gmail.com</a>
- 7. Join our **HOST COMMITTEE** by committing to attend and to bring guests/neighbors. Sign-up beginning today or Contact Rosemary Ricelli Scheidt RRicelliScheidt@gmail.com

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." - Psalm 145:4

In the early 1950's, Myrtle Wuggazer had a vision to create a Christian, play-based preschool at Redeemer. She and three other women from our church noticed the new Sunday School classrooms sat empty during the week and provided an opportunity. At that time, Preschools were called "Nurseries", and play-based learning was different and unique. Westmaple was one of the first Church-based nursery schools in the nation, and the first Lutheran Preschool in the state of Michigan.

Myrtle was named Director of the Westmaple Nursery School when no one else wanted the job, and as the wife of the Pastor, she was the ideal person to lead. The Church Council approved the nursery school, and it formally opened in the fall of 1952 and was licensed by 1953. Myrtle planned for 30 students, and 72 little children showed up! Obviously, there was a need in the community for Pre-K education, and Westmaple sprouted like the seeds of an apple tree! Myrtle's foresight was remarkable, and what an ideal way to attract new members for the church. As Director, it was a magnanimous endeavor and Myrtle set to it with determination and excitement. She planned and purchased all the equipment, furniture and decorations for the rooms, the instruction materials, and dealt with administrative needs. And if that was not enough, Myrtle also prepared and lead the music, dealt with financial reports, created programming and managed the major share of public relations.



The Michigan Lutheran, September 1979, noted nearly every pediatrician in the Birmingham and Bloomfield area recommended Westmaple to their patients. The article also says, "Westmaple began as a service to the community and over 85% of its enrollment was from outside the congregation." It had become the church's strongest outreach ministry. As an outgrowth of Westmaple attendance, they would then also enroll their children in Sunday School. They would attend New Member and Confirmation classes and then join the church. Is it not still true: "and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6.

In 1992, after 41 years as Westmaple Nursery Director, Myrtle Wuggazer announced her retirement. Myrtle, then 84, wanted to enjoy her love of gardening, travel, bridge, and golf. She had very mixed emotions; she would miss the parents and especially the children, but she said, "It's the right time." As Director Emeritus, her impact would still be present as a consultant to the school she founded. Myrtle found her replacement in Bonnie Meisel, a teacher at the school for 17 years. Bonnie was crestfallen to see Myrtle retire. "She has been my inspiration. She has taught and prepared over 2,000 children, some of whom have become presidents of companies, doctors, and lawyers." In honor of Myrtle's years of service and longstanding dedication, Sunday, May 31, 1992, was proclaimed "Myrtle Wuggazer Day" by Mayor Rex Martin of Birmingham.

Westmaple Nursery students are, "Exposed to a Biblical approach to life, prayer, Christmas and Easter religious holidays and Christian symbols" (The Birmingham Patriot, April 1978). "Mrs. Wuggazer sees the nursery experience as the bridge between mother and the child's encounter away from home. Her staff provides the motherly love the children need,". The teachers in 1978 were: Mrs. Marion Martens, Mrs. Evelyn Roth, Mrs. Bonnie Meisel, Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Judy Asmus (Weir), and Mrs. Lois Meinert. The holidays provided seasonal themes, while frequent extracurricular activities added excitement and laughter. Such events included a field trip to the Fire Station, a visit from a Policeman during Safety week, and from a Nurse during Health Week. In 1993, Sergeant Hopper and his horse "Spanky" arrived from the Birmingham Police Department. The children gathered around this enormous horse and took turns petting him. On another occasion a helicopter landed in the church parking lot carrying photographer and church member, Hank Weber, who took arial photos for a pictorial brochure of Redeemer showing its array of activities.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As in any preschool, delightful stories abound. In 1968, when the Tiger's won the World Series, little Gordon came to school, and when the teacher greeted him with, "Good morning, Gordon", he didn't answer. His mom said, "If he doesn't answer it's because he is Mickey Lolich today!" In 1994, they were celebrating the "Pumpkin Patch" and were waiting for the "Great Pumpkin" to arrive. Expecting pie sized pumpkins, the order was delivered by Don Van Houtte, grower of Michigan's largest pumpkin! The parents were surprised but delighted with the huge pumpkins they had to carry home. Also, in October of that year, during Fire Prevention Week, Catherine Leahan and a camera crew from Channel 2 showed up to film the Fire prevention presentation.

One of the best stories we found in the archives was a newspaper article about a little boy named Bob Bagnell. One day he woke up early in the morning, got himself ready for school, and walked ALONE from his apartment located on Southfield Rd. between 13 & 14 mile roads, all the way to Westmaple Nursery School. Little Bobby had to cross several busy roads including Maple Road! Meanwhile, Mom frantically called the Police. After all the alarming activity, he eventually arrived safely at Westmaple, surprising both himself and Mrs. Wuggazer. It wasn't his day actual to attend!

It's almost a requirement for pre-school teachers to be warm and loving, and Westmaple teachers certainly meet that standard. Each classroom has a lead teacher and an assistant. Many of our teachers stay with the program for years. Bonnie Meisel taught for 17 years, before taking over the role of Director. Other teachers have included: Joyce Oldham, Brenda Wuggazer, Carolyn Stark, Denise McDonald, Cindy Grove, Jill Kaline, Martha Johnson, Pam Priskorn, Lynn Kartz, and Beth Kavanagh. Jan Kanka served as a substitute teacher for many years, then an assistant teacher for 12 years and head teacher for 3 years. Jan has recently retired and will enjoy traveling and waterskiing! With Westmaple's rich history of exceptional teachers, we ask that you please forgive us if we have missed anyone's name! You may have noticed that one particular name hasn't been mentioned yet. We have been so blessed to have Kitty Sweitzer, who was recently named Preschool Teacher of the Year by the Michigan District, as a long-serving teacher at Westmaple. In 1979, Kitty came to work at Westmaple as Bonnie Meisel's aide. Bonnie spoke highly of Kitty's approach to teaching as, "Her lessons are sprinkled with lots of love and humor. Her enthusiasm and warmth are showered upon every child every day." Her kindness and gentleness hold a special place in the hearts of those who have passed through the doors of our beloved preschool. Kitty holds the record for the longest serving term at Westmaple, even beating out the 41-year run of our first Director Myrtle Wuggazer.

In 2000, Bonnie Meisel retired, and Andrea Schlak became the Westmaple Director. Andrea had planned to take the role for one year, but it lovingly turned into 7 years! She brought her faith, and years as a Lutheran school teacher to the preschool program. One of her favorite memories (and we hear that the teachers never let her forget it!) was scheduling a visit from a local farm. Every kid loves to pet live animals, right? When the farm representative arrived at school, she brought stuffed animals! Needless to say, it wasn't exactly a "petting zoo"!

When Andrea was finally allowed to retire in 2007, Redeemer member Patricia Raezler became Director of Westmaple. Patricia had years of experience teaching Sunday School and VBS, in addition to raising 4 children of her own. She incorporated a new Mission Statement that reads in part, "Westmaple Nursery School recognizes that all children are created in the image of God. Therefore, through a Christ-centered environment of love, laughter, and learning, we are dedicated to developing within each child the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth appropriate for our preschool children. Westmaple Nursery School is where the journey begins." (The Lamp, November 2008).

Throughout the decades, the children of Westmaple have enjoyed classroom activities that encourage and challenge their physical and cognitive growth. From playing with building blocks, to music programs, dramatic play and art projects (to name just a few), the teachers continually find ways to make learning fun!



#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

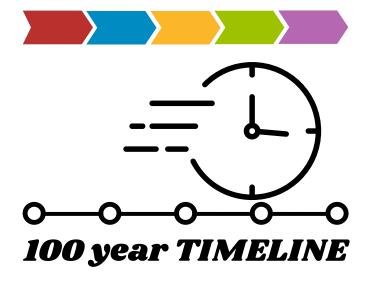
Finally, one of the lessons that children learn at Westmaple is mission work. Over the years they have participated in many mission projects including food drives for Baldwin House, donating much needed books to a Day Care center in Detroit, and contributing school and art supplies to a Detroit Head Start program. "The children's enthusiasm for giving continues throughout the year, and they usually begin January by asking, "What can we bring this month?" (The Lamp December 1994).

Today, Westmaple Nursery school is still highly regarded in our area. Thanks to Sacred Space Phase 1, we now have 5 classrooms, 10 teachers, and 95 students enrolled. Many of the students over the years who have remained members of Redeemer are now parents bringing their children to learn the Christian lessons of Westmaple. Mrs. Wuggazer would be so pleased to see this full circle moment.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

God has indeed blessed Westmaple!





As another way to honor our 100 years,
Ginny Schalm has prepared two very
interesting timelines that are now
published on our church website. They can
also be found in the Theodore Wuggazer
Memorial Library.

One is a World Timeline and one is a Christian/Redeemer timeline, both corresponding to the 100 year history of Redeemer. For all you fellow history lovers, please take a look and enjoy!

Click on the "Holy History" box on the church website to find these amazing treasures.



In the 1959 to 1960 Westmaple school year, the budget included \$52 for insurance; \$140 for printing, mailing and publicity; \$230 for telephone services; and \$606 for fruit juice and snacks.

Kitty remembers starting Westmaple in 1979 as an assistant to Beth Hoffman and Bonnie Meisel. Her first paycheck was \$ 56.00 for the month. Kitty went right out and bought a little rabbit sculpture! Kitty has loved every child and every minute of her time at Westmaple!





Redeemer is hosting a variety of musical performances to help commemorate our special year - all performances will take place in the Sanctuary. We hope you'll join us!

#### Thursday, October 9th

11:00am: Birmingham Musical Concert (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Sunday, October 12th

3:00pm: Birmingham Concert Band Fall Concert (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Sunday, October 19th

3:00pm: Detroit Lutheran Singers Fall Concert (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Friday, November 7th

7:00pm: Detroit Youth Choir (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Thursday, November 13th

11:00am: The Birmingham Musicale Choral Ensemble (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Sunday, November 16th

4:00pm: Ukranian Music Concert (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Sunday, December 7th

3:00pm: Birmingham Concert Band Holiday Concert (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Tuesday, December 9th

11:30am: Tuesday Musical Christmas Concert (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Thursday, December 11th

11:00am: The Birmingham Musicale Choral Ensemble (Redeemer Sanctuary)

#### Sunday, December 14th

4:00pm: Langford's Men's Christmas Concert (Redeemer Sanctuary)



#### **COUNSELING CORNER**

Dear friends,

A few weeks ago, a dear brother in the Lord, Charlie Kirk was assassinated for his faith in Jesus Christ and speaking the Truth in love and respect to/for others. He was a true martyr. Charlie was incredibly devoted to Jesus and his family and then others. In that order.

It is quite common to get that Biblical order of priorities reversed. In dining with a dear friend recently, my husband and I were asked by him about some things concerning marriage.

Bill looked me with a sparkle in his eye and remained quiet and essentially deferred to me to provide an answer (lol)! Our friend was a renown and very successful trader/investor in the futures and commodities world. He had been divorced 3 times looking for a 4<sup>th</sup> wife! Some of you would know his name if you are in this world of finance.

I told him the Biblical order of God, spouse THEN kids, then career. In reading his body language I could see that he was literally shocked and he asked me to repeat the order. He said "wife before kids and job"? I said absolutely! He was a workaholic to say the least. Somehow, he did not connect the dots between divorce and a chaotic non-Biblically ordered life.

Friends, when we fall out of biblical correctness or God's order of life and take on the world's order and "correctness" of thing, things will be misaligned and most likely chaotic on some level. Remember, the evil one is the author of confusion and chaos (Ephesians 6:12). He came to steal, KILL and destroy (John 10:10). God is a God of order. HE instructs us in the way we should go in His Word (Psalm 32:8, 25:4-5). That's why we need to read it every morning before we start our day. I find that my days are a lot smoother and more wonderful when I start them with Him at 4:30-am!

So, I leave you with this Scripture to ponder. It has been a game changer for me.

Colossians 3:23. Whatever you do (worshiping Him spending time in the Word every day, in your role as a spouse, parent, employee/employer) work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, NOT men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

It is the LORD CHRIST YOU ARE SERVING. Did you catch that? You are serving God not man in everything you do. It totally takes flesh (people) off the table. It's all about serving Jesus and offering ourselves as a living sacrifice throughout the day in every task we do.

It has been my experience professionally and personally that when people get their lives realigned into Biblical order, things go a whole lot better. So, whatever you do, do it with excellence especially when serving those who don't deserve it. Either did we when Jesus gave His life for us on the cross. But He did it anyway out of obedience to the Father and love for us.

God's Blessings and peace to you,

Dr. Sandy Pourcho



Dr. Sandy Pourcho is available to address your counseling needs! Call to set-up an appointment soon!

**Sandy Pourcho, PHD** 248.568.6040

## **OCTOBER**

## BIBLE READING PLAN

#### 1

Isaiah 62:6-65:25 Philippians 2:19-3:3 Psalm 73:1-28 Proverbs 24:13-14

#### 2

Isaiah 66:1-24 Philippians 3:4-21 Psalm 74:1-23 Proverbs 24:15-16

#### 3

Jeremiah 1:1-2:30 Philippians 4:1-23 Psalm 75:1-10 Proverbs 24:17-20

#### 4

Jeremiah 2:31-4:18 Colossians 1:1-17 Psalm 76:1-12 Proverbs 24:21-22

#### 5

Jeremiah 4:19-6:15 Colossians 1:18-2:7 Psalm 77:1-20 Proverbs 24:23-25

#### 6

Jeremiah 6:16-8:7 Colossians 2:8-23 Psalm 78:1-31 Proverbs 24:26

#### 7

Jeremiah 8:8-9:26 Colossians 3:1-17 Psalm 78:32-55 Proverbs 24:27

#### 8

Jeremiah 10:1-11:23 Colossians 3:18-4:18 Psalm 78:56-72 Proverbs 24:28-29

#### Q

Jeremiah 12:1-14:10 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:8 Psalm 79:1-13 Proverbs 24:30-34

#### 10

Jeremiah 14:11-16:15 1 Thessalonians 2:9-3:13 Psalm 80:1-19 Proverbs 25:1-5

#### 11

Jeremiah 16:16-18:23 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:3 Psalm 81:1-16 Proverbs 25:6-8

#### 12

Jeremiah 19:1-21:14 1 Thessalonians 5:4-28 Psalm 82:1-8 Proverbs 25:9-10

#### 13

Jeremiah 22:1-23:20 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Psalm 83:1-18 Proverbs 25:11-14

#### 14

Jeremiah 23:21-25:38 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 Psalm 84:1-12 Proverbs 25:15

#### 15

Jeremiah 26:1-27 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 Psalm 85:1-13 Proverbs 25:16

#### 16

Jeremiah 28:1-29:32 1 Timothy 1:1-20 Psalm 86:1-17 Proverbs 25:17

#### 17

Jeremiah 30:1-31:26 1 Timothy 2:1-15 Psalm 87:1-7 Proverbs 25:18-19

#### 18

Jeremiah 31:27-32:44 1 Timothy 3:1-16 Psalm 88:1-18 Proverbs 25:20-22

#### 19

Jeremiah 33:1-34:22 1 Timothy 4:1-16 Psalm 89:1-13 Proverbs 25:23-24

#### **20**

Jeremiah 35:1-36:32 1 Timothy 5:1-25 Psalm 89:14-37 Proverbs 25:25-27

#### **21**

Jeremiah 37:1-38:28 1 Timothy 6:1-21 Psalm 89:38-52 Proverbs 25:28

#### 22

Jeremiah 39:1-41:18 2 Timothy 1:1-18 Psalm 90:1-91:16 Proverbs 26:1-2

#### **23**

Jeremiah 42:1-44:23 2 Timothy 2:1-21 Psalm 92:1-93 Proverbs 26:3-5

#### **24**

Jeremiah 44:24-47:7 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17 Psalm 94:1-23 Proverbs 26:6-8

#### **25**

Jeremiah 48:1-49:22 2 Timothy 4:1-22 Psalm 95:1-96:13 Proverbs 26:9-12

#### **26**

Jeremiah 49:23-50:46 Titus 1:1-16 Psalm 97:1-98:9 Proverbs 26:13-16

#### **27**

Jeremiah 51:1-53 Titus 2:1-15 Psalm 99:1-9 Proverbs 26:17

#### **28**

Jeremiah 51:54-52:34 Titus 3:1-15 Psalm 100:1-5 Proverbs 26:18-19

#### **29**

Lamentations 1:1-2:22 Philemon 1:1-25 Psalm 101:1-8 Proverbs 26:20

#### **30**

Lamentations 3:1-66 Hebrews 1:1-14 Psalm 102:1-28 Proverbs 26:21-22





#### 31

Lamentations 4:1-5:22 Hebrews 2:1-18 Psalm 103:1-22 Proverbs 26:23







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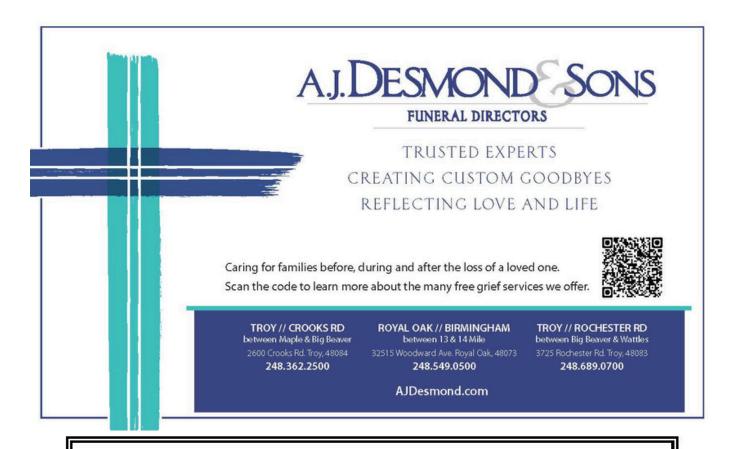
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October 1

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October 2

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October 3

Kurt Beckeman Joanna Newman Bill Pourcho Cary Richert Scott Whitfield Luca Zuliani

October 4

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Nate Eckert
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Melissa Hoover
Lillia Kiriluk
Olivia Lang
Adrianna Lomax
Elizabeth Mabley
Randy Schlak
James Schmidt
Palmer Seme

October 6

Kati Beckeman Jeffrey Falk Cindy Grove Sarah Kabacinski Scarlett Kaiser Hannah Schmidt

October 7

Kate Curtis Andrew Martin Kevin Mills Marissa Young October 9

Nicolas Guevara Michael Mato Maggie Noettl

October 10

Jon Duff Daphne Fuqua Carrie Morris

October 11

Paul Held Mary Jane Johnson Blake Klopcic Kimberly Nicol

October 12

Sofie Atesian Dick Bergstrom Jill Kaline Jack Mauger Karla Snell Nikki Werner

October 13

William Atesian Christina Craig Paige Gardner John Henke Jr. Sachin Kelkar Lisa Learman Alfred Sherk Kelly VanHulle

October 14

Laura Couger Caitlyn Kulczycki Jennifer Pratt Claire Rubel

October 15

Toby Buechner Connor Flynn Freeland Goddard Jonathan Leischner Diana Lepola James MacKillop Aidan O'Neill

October 16

Sean Bacon Kris Leonard Caelan Pitlanish Kay Scheidt Norah Springer

October 17

Gerry Bastian
Kenneth Burchill III
Joan Cavanaugh
Dan Cornwell
Valerie Eckert
Gavin Jones
Andrew Tyndall
Brennen Wilkie
Evan Yuhn

October 18

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October 21

Michael Dundas David Lychuk

October 23

Stacie Millichamp

October 24

Abbott Belanger Norman Morrell Christine Snyder Jeremy Swoyer

October 25

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October 26

Carolyn Becker Anthony DeBenedictis Barbara Ericson Mallory Glazier Ryan Klopcic

October 27

David Cobb Rachel Kidder Haylie May Jake Needham Kristi Stewart October 28

David Hardoin Barbara Murphy Jordan Werner Jane Zehnder Sarah Ziegele

October 29

Christian Becker
Kristy Drexel
Keith Lewis
Madison Meteer
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Franziska Schoenfeld
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October 30

Leanna Bushuiakovish Melinda Claucherty Lola Mills Ruth Newman Sloane Walsh

October 31

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