

Christian, Lutheran, LCMS and Redeemer History 100 Years

Written by Ginny Schalm

July 2025

6 Sep 1924 Birmingham, MI USA This is the day that **Rev. Luther August Schuessler** started his LCMS call to canvas the Birmingham, MI USA area to see if a Lutheran church should be started here. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St Louis, MO USA in 1923, and after a year of post-grad work, He was ordained 13 Jul 1924.

23 Nov 1924 Birmingham, MI USA First service held in Johnston-Shaw Hall on the 2nd floor of the Johnston-Shaw Building. This was also the first Lutheran church service in Birmingham, MI USA. **Rev C. H. Ruesskamp** of Detroit conducted the service. **Rev. Luther August Schuessler** was installed as the first Pastor.

27 Jan 1925 Johnston-Shaw Hall, Birmingham, MI USA First Redeemer child baptized, **Raymond Leafdale**.

29 Mar 1925 Birmingham, MI USA “**Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**” officially named.

Spring 1925 Birmingham, MI USA Congregation organized - Part of Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod/English District. Lutheran Women’s Missionary League - LWML - formed

10 May 1925 Birmingham, MI USA Ann Street Chapel constructed as a portable building at the Northwest corner of Lincoln and Ann Streets. Two special services were held. The **Rev. G. Schuessler** of Chicago, Il., preached the dedicatory sermon. **Rev. A.H. A. Loeber** of Detroit delivered an instructive address on I Corinthians 15, 58.

2 Aug 1925 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA **Marron Andussi** first child baptized of congregant member.

22 Apr 1926 Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Luther Schuessler** accepts a call to Illinois.

Sep 1926 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Roland Emmanuel Scaer** becomes the congregation’s second pastor.

1926-1930 Birmingham, MI USA Parsonage built on the NE corner of Lincoln and Stanley-496 W. Lincoln, Birmingham, MI USA.

Summer 1930 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Redeemer Membership: 39 confirmed members.

1931 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI **Rev. Scaer** accepts a call to North Carolina.

19 Apr 1931 USA **Rev. Theodore George Ludwig Wuggazer, Jr.** assumes pastorate. Moves from a parish in Cody, Wyoming USA.

3 Jun 1931 Fraser, MI USA The marriage of primary school sweethearts **Pastor Ted Wuggazer, Jr. and Myrtle Rein** at Saint John Lutheran Church, Fraser, MI USA, where **Pastor Ted Wuggazer, Sr.** was Pastor.

18 Sep 1934 Pontiac, MI USA Birth of **Duane Theodore Wuggazer**

1931-1937 Birmingham, MI USA Fewer than 50 members, many out of work, struggle with church debt of \$12,000 in the Great Depression.

1931-1937 Frankenmuth area, MI USA **Pastor Ted** knocked on the doors of the 'rich farmers' in the German farming areas around Frankenmuth, MI fundraising to help the financially struggling Redeemer congregation.

7 Apr 1935 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Old organ sold for \$1.

Dec 1935 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society hosts a Christmas Bazaar and a sauerkraut dinner.

8 Mar 1936 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA A used organ was bought from Grinnell Brothers for \$25 (\$10 from Sunday School, \$5 each from 3 people).

1937 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA 4 packages of Jello sold for 25 cents to raise \$14 for the Ladies Missionary Society.

2 May 1937 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Communion offered the first Sunday of each month. It was celebrated less often before that.

30 May 1937 Detroit, MI USA Celebration of the Centennial of MI Lutheranism at the Coliseum at 8 Mile and Woodward.

7 Jul 1937 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA New church first mentioned in the bulletin.

Dec 1937 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society sent a Christmas cheer donation to the inmates at Eloise Mental Hospital. They also hosted a Christmas Bazaar.

Early 1938 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Congregation transferred from English District to Michigan District of the Missouri Synod. With this move came more financial assistance.

31 Dec 1940 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Redeemer now has 120 confirmed members and has cut the church debt in half.

1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA **Walther League** forms at Redeemer.

7 Jan 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Committee of 5-appointed to navigate locations, formulate and present a plan for a permanent house of worship.

4 Feb 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Ratified decision for the youth to join the International Walther League.

Feb 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA \$50 approved to have plans drawn up for a colonial style church.

Feb-Mar 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI Congregation purchases a 6.25-acre site on West Maple Road for \$5500. Authorization was unanimously approved on 4 Mar 1941.

1941 Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society voted to equip the kitchen in the new church. China dishes- service for 120 was purchased for \$168.53. \$970 was approved for carpet in the new church.

1 Apr 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA 100 Blue 'new tune' edition hymnals adopted and purchased for 81 cents each.

6 May 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Mortgage for land for church site, erection and extension of building, not to exceed \$45,000 at no more than 3.5% interest.

31 Aug 1941 Birmingham, MI USA Ground broken for new church at 1800 West Maple Road, Birmingham, MI USA.

2 Sep 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Plans to sell the organ at the appropriate time for \$200.

12 Oct 1941 Birmingham, MI USA Cornerstone laid for **The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**.

8 Dec 1941 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Sale of chapel and lot for \$1800 which was approved by the Michigan District in June 1939.

13 Jan 1942 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA **Marjorie Burns** to be the organist until the new church is occupied. Approval for the purchase of lumber to build cupboards and linoleum in the kitchen at the parsonage.

3 Feb 1942 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA **Mrs. Copp** is to be the organist and choir director in the new church.

3 Mar 1942 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Mother's Day contributions will be given to the Army and Navy collections as authorized by Synod. Easter envelope collections will go into the building fund.

5 May 1942 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA **Mrs. Copp** is paid \$2.50 pr week until we are in the new church. The Pastor's \$20 rent for parsonage is being discontinued.

2 Jun 1942 Ann St Chapel, Birmingham, MI USA Public exam of Confirmands discontinued. Chapel and lot not yet sold. One offer of \$375 to \$400 for the building alone from the Extension Board of the Reformed Church of Detroit, MI USA. Another offer for the building and the lot for \$500.

19 Jun 1942 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer at 1800 W Maple is dedicated. Pastor Ted's Father, **Rev. Theodore Henry Wuggazer** preached.

Jun 1942 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Sunday School attendance 27.

1942 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA When **John Knorr**, a child of Redeemer, died, his parents, **Alvin and Helene Knorr**, donated the chandelier in his honor. The candles were lit for weddings, special events and Christmas Eve.

Dec 1942 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society sent Christmas boxes to soldiers.

1943 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Ted's** salary was increased **from** \$37 to \$57 per week.

Mar 1943 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA It was asked that the \$900 from the Easter collection envelopes be used for beautifying the church grounds.

1 Sep 1943 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Pastor's salary to be \$250 per month with \$5 per week for car expenses.

Sep 1943 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Communicant membership 206. Sunday School attendance 110.

Sep 1943 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Inter-church bowling league begins with teams from Redeemer and the Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Methodist churches.

3 Nov 1943 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA It was decided to discontinue Advent services because of gas shortage, long hours being worked and poor attendance.

Dec 1943 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society was able to keep the cost of the Christmas boxes for our soldiers to under \$2 each.

18 Apr 1944 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA City of Birmingham was permitted to store voting booths in the church basement.

Dec 1944 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society sent Christmas boxes to soldiers, overseas and stateside, and “Coming Home” boxes for our soldiers plus service people at MI airfield.

15 Dec 1944 Indianapolis, IN USA **Pastor Roland Scaer** (1897-1944), the second pastor of Redeemer, died.

Apr 1945 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Discussion about how to raise \$1500 for a Thank offering

Oct 1945-Spring 1946 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Bulletin board (plaque) approved in 1945, built and dedicated in 1946 to the men of Redeemer who served their country faithfully and well in WWII. Redeemer had NO casualties. Thank you, God!

Dec 1945 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA This year the Ladies Missionary Society made small jars of jelly for each soldiers' Christmas box.

Jan 1946 Birmingham, MI USA Birmingham experiences a population increase. Membership began to increase by 100 new members per year.

14 Oct 1946 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA A letter went out to the congregation noting that after 21 years there will no longer be a subsidy from the Mission Board and the church would have to be self-supporting for the first time.

Dec 1946 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society hosted a Christmas party.

26 Apr 1947 Chicago, IL USA Originally named The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, our Synod's name was shortened to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 1947 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary.

5 Sep 1947 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Vaughan Heard appointed choir director. The church withdrew from the Glen Eden Cemetery Association.

Dec 1947 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ladies Missionary Society has both Christmas party and Christmas Bazaar. They also packaged Christmas cards to be given away.

1 Apr 1948 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Discussion of the development of a city park at the rear of the church property.

1949 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Carillon system installed.

1949 Africa Lutheran missionaries are sent by the WI Synod to Central Africa.

Jun 1951 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI Ground is broken for Youth wing to accommodate Sunday School. First Little League game is played on Redeemer's field.

1 Oct 1951 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Mrs. Gassaway** has been the church secretary for a long time without charge. It was voted to pay her \$100 per month.

10 Nov 1951 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA A special meeting was called to authorize borrowing \$150,000 for the Sunday School wing.

15 Jun 1952 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Youth building is dedicated, a second worship service and Sunday School program is added.

Fall 1952 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA First year of Westmaple Nursery School begins with 75 children and 26 on a waiting list. This was the first sponsored day nursery in Birmingham. **Myrtle Wuggazer** is the director.

3 Nov 1952 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA The final cost of the Sunday School wing was \$156,869.55.

1 Dec 1952 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Sunday School enrollment 481. Caretakers to be paid \$115 per month.

1953 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Aerial view of the church taken by **Hank Weber** and made into 2000 postcards.

May 1953 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Clara E. Knudsen** Memorial Playground is dedicated.

18 Jun 1953 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA VBS begins

14 Sep 1953 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA New parsonage is considered. Parsonage on Lincoln and Stanley is too old, too cold in the winter and lacking guest quarters.

Dec 1953 Birmingham, MI USA For \$35,400, with a 15-year mortgage the new parsonage was purchased at 967 N. Glenhurst Dr., the first street West of the church.

17 Jan 1954 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA With the congregation continually growing, congregants were given a card to register for communion, instead of having to call the Pastor to register.

1 Nov 1954 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA The church was now called Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

1 Apr 1955 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Decided to install clocks on the belfry.

Jun 1955 Birmingham, MI USA Honored **Pastor Ted's** 25th anniversary of his ordination.

Fall 1955 Concordia Theological Seminary, St Louis, MO USA **Duane Wuggazer** enters the Seminary.

Dec 1955 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Church attendance jumped from 108 in 1942 to 722 in Dec 1955. There were 500 in Sunday School with 1000 communicant members.

9 Jan 1956 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Secured an architect to enlarge the church Sanctuary.

Sep 1956 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA 543 students in Sunday School with 43 teachers.

1956 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Third service added.

Jun 1956 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI Paving of driveways and parking lot.

May 1957 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Basement flooding following hard rains.

1957 Birmingham, MI USA During construction to extend the church; services were held at Birmingham High School where both attendance and contributions were low.

Fall 1957 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Vince and Nancy Kochenderfer** become Choir director and organist.

13 Dec 1957 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Dedication of new, enlarged Sanctuary.

23 Jun 1959 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ordination of **Rev. Duane Theodore Wuggazer** - son of **Theodore and Myrtle Wuggazer**
Youth director hired from Valparaiso University for Youth Program.

Jun 1961 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA New spire on church is completed.

2 Feb 1962 Chicago, IL USA The first Pastor of Redeemer, **Pastor Luther Schuessler** (1900-1962), dies from complications from abdominal surgery.

1 May 1962 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Nearly 1,400 communicant members.

9 Sep 1962 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Ted** - hospitalized after taking ill at church. **Rev. Werner Kurtz** (Lutheran World Relief) preached and helped while **Pastor Ted** recovered.

12 Nov 1962 Birmingham, MI USA A second parsonage for **Pastor Duane** was purchased at 636 Westbourne, Bloomfield Hills, MI USA.

Dec 1962 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Duane Wuggazer** becomes the first assistant pastor.

18 Mar 1963 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Plans to establish School of Religion (SOR).

May-Jul 1963 Israel **Pastor Ted and Myrtle Wuggazer** tour Europe and the Holy Land.

Jun 1963 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Cupola with clock added to Youth building entrance.

Sep 1963 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA School of Religion - SOR - is organized with 210 enrolled.

Fall 1963 Ann Arbor, MI USA Concordia, Ann Arbor opens as a junior college.

5 Oct 1963 Cleveland, OH USA Birth of **Randall James Schlak**, later to become the fifth senior pastor of Redeemer.

18 May 1964 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA A motion is made to install air-conditioning in the church.

Dec 1965 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Membership reaches 1500.

1965 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **William Beilfuss** accepts the call as full-time youth director.

Jul 1965 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Air conditioning installed.

25 Jul 1965 Royal Oak, MI USA **Mark Wuggazer** born to his parents **Duane and Mary Kay**.

1966 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Youth director, **William Beilfuss** leaves, and the position is accepted by **Bill Meinert**. **Bill** was invited to do full time church work with a handshake with **Pastor Ted**.

1966 Hong Kong, **China** LCMS starts Hong Kong International School for students in Primary through High School.

22 Sep 1966 Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Ted** (1906-1966) - is called to his Heavenly home.

18 Oct 1966 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Sunday School has nearly 300 each week and SOR 200.

Nov 1966 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Duane T Wuggazer** - Pastor Duane - is installed as senior pastor.

17 Jan 1967 Birmingham, MI USA After the death of **Pastor Ted**, **Mrs. Myrtle Wuggazer** allowed to continue living in the 967 N Glenhurst parsonage.

1 May 1967 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA It was decided to leave the spotlights on to curb the problem of teens drinking behind the church. Communicant members 1,557 and 681 in Sunday School.

May 1967 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA 75 eighth graders in confirmation class were divided into 5 groups. Both Redeemer pastors, **Bill Meinert** and 2 pastors from the area divided up the instruction.

Sep 1967 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Robert Seizinger** accepts a call to become assistant pastor. A second parsonage purchased on Manchester, Birmingham, MI USA.

1 Oct 1967 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Robert Seizinger** is installed.

Oct 1967 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA New roof installed.

Jan 1968 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Seizinger** asked to resign.

Jan 1968 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Vicar Allan Mahnke** installed.

Fall 1968 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Bill Meinert** starts training a group of Bethel Bible teachers including **Janet Jung**, **Betty Kelly** and **Ginny Schalm**.

9 Dec 1968 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Sunday School has 29 teachers and between 250-300 students.

20 Jan 1969 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Communicant members 1,655.

Fall 1968 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Vicar Michael Warner** installed.

17 Feb 1969 Birmingham, MI USA Approval of the sale of the 636 Westbourne parsonage to **Pastor Duane** on a land contract.

Fall 1969 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Gene Guettler** hired as Children's Choir and Crusader Choir director.

Jan 1970 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Two-year Bethel Bible Study begins with classes of students studying the entire Bible.

29 Jun 1970 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Women allowed at Voter's Assembly for the first time.

1 May 1970 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Groundbreaking and dedication for Multipurpose addition which includes the gym, kitchen, parlor, and library.

23 Jun 1970 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA A third service in Contemporary music was introduced for the summer months.

11 Oct 1970 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Holger G. Cattau** was installed as Pastor of Visitation.

1970 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Cattau** starts the Grand Group.

19 Apr 1971 Birmingham, MI USA The parsonage on Manchester, Birmingham, MI USA is sold.

22 Nov 1971 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Fencing installed at the back of the property in compliance with a request from the City of Birmingham.

10 Jul 1972 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Thursday evening services averaging 35 people.

18 Sep 1972 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Weekly Thursday evening services were changed to a once-a-month communion service on Thursday evening.

1973 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Stan Kelly** reported that we had pigeons roosting over the west entrance. A month later, he reported that the pigeons had relocated themselves to the Methodist Church across the street.

5 Aug 1973 MI USA/Holy Land 20 people leave on a trip to the Holy Land.

1973 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Coffee Hour established.

Feb 1974 Concordia Theological Seminary, St Louis, MO USA SEMINEX walkout occurs with a split of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Lutheran Seminarians and pastors left to form the ELCA.

1974-1983 USA Seminex (Seminarians in Exile) Era

2 Dec 1974 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Motion to allow women to serve on the church council died for lack of a second.

16 Nov 1975 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA 50th Anniversary Celebrations. **Dr. Rev. Paul Maier and Lenore Romney** participated as guest speakers for Sunday's sermon and the Women's Luncheon respectively

1975 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Sunday School 143, SOR 140, VBS 126.

Feb 1976 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Acolyte program began.

Mar 1976 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Lenten services debut at 1:15 pm and 8 pm on Wednesdays.

1976 Springfield, IL/Fort Wayne, IN USA Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, IL is moved to Fort Wayne, IN.

24 Dec 1976 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA 1,600 attend Christmas Eve services - the largest number attending in a single day in the history of the church.

1976 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Sunday School 111, SOR 133.

1976-1983 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Christmas Eve -- Usher, **Al Schalm** on a tall ladder, puts out the 16 candles of the chandelier. One of the upper arms of the chandelier fell to the floor and shattered.

May 1978 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Women included as Board Members and Officers (except for Pastor, Elders, President or VP of Church Council).

Sep 1979 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Chapel narthex redone.

1979 - 1980 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Lutheran High Northwest uses facilities for the school year. Church members **Kevin Jones** and **Beth (Schoen) Lanthier** start their church work studies at Concordia, Ann Arbor, MI USA

1979 Detroit/Birmingham, MI USA Redeemer adopts a Laotian family from SE Asia (working with St Andrew Redeemer ELCA on 14th St. in Detroit).

Dec 1982-1985, 1988 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Christmas Musicale and Tea put on by the Women Society.

1982 Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO USA **Kevin Jones** enters the Seminary.

1983 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Vince and Nancy Kochenderfer** leave Redeemer. **Fred and Dorothy Rohrbach** hired as choir director and organist. **Pastor Cattau** takes Senior Pastorship at Crown of Life in Rochester Hills, MI USA. **Beth (Schoen) Lanthier** goes into full-time church work, accepting a call at Holy Cross Lutheran School, Detroit - only the 2nd person from Redeemer to do so.

1983 St Louis, MO USA Church member **Steve Smith** enters Concordia Lutheran Seminary.

c1983 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Jean Cuthbert** - Woman of the Year.

1984 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Sue Barry** hired as Handbell director. 'Women of Redeemer' replaces Women's Society. Marge Noettl was hired as Family Life Director.

Aug 1984 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA New sound system installed in the Sanctuary.

1984 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Kitty Sweitzer** - Woman of the Year.

1985 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Linda Lewis** - Woman of the Year from Lutheran High Northwest.

1985 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **JoAnn Tylicki** resigns as Youth Director due to full-time work obligations.

Jul-Aug 1985 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Handicap bathrooms installed.

1985 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Kevin Jones** served as Summer Vicar.

1985 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA 1st "Friday Fun/Food/Fellowship" starts.

1985 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Lois Meinert** Woman of the Year.

Aug 1985 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Call extended to **Cary Richert** as Minister of Discipleship.

1986 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Marge Noettl** hired as full time Women's Ministry Director.

c1986 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Betty Moore** - Woman of the Year.

1986 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Steven Smith** served as Summer Vicar.

1986 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Church Council minimum age is 25. **Sharon Davis** takes over Crusader choir.

July 1986 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Dottie Reiher** hired as full-time Minister of Family Life.

1987 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Dorothy Hesskamp** - Woman of the Year.

11 Jan 1987 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Ralph Tobias Joeckel** begins his ministry of Bible Study and Youth at Redeemer as an assistant pastor. **Bill Meinert** retires after 34 years at Redeemer.

Dec 1987-May 1988 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA New Schulmerich Carillon installed.

12 Jun 1988 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Kevin Craig Jones** ordained.

1988 Detroit, MI USA Operating since the 19th century, the Lutheran School for the Deaf closes due to the trend of main streaming special needs students.

21 October 1988 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Our beautiful chandelier was shining brightly at the wedding of **Kurt and Marcia Doolin**. Six hours later it came crashing down. **Tom Boyce**, the facility manager, was called in 'to pick up the pieces.'

Late 1988 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Concerned about the cost the church council did not want to replace the chandelier. **Pastor Duane** said, 'The Lord will provide.' **Tom and Brenda Boyce** extended their trip to Europe to stop at a chandelier shop in Vienna. They ordered a new chandelier.

1988 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Cleora Fitzpatrick** - Woman of the Year.

30 Nov 1988 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Advent by Candlelight first celebrated.

1989 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Sanctuary organ refurbished by Abel Organ Co.

20 Nov 1989 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA New chandelier made by J&L Lobmeyr Co., Kaerntner Strasse 26, Vienna, Austria - \$10,800 arrives 3 days before Thanksgiving..

1989 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Bonnie Miesel** - Woman of the Year. First Redeemer Cookbook published.

1 Dec 1989 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA In 11 days the new chandelier was assembled and hung.

3 Dec 1989 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Dedication of the new chandelier. Four hours later, **Tom and Brenda Boyce's** son, **John** tragically died in an accident. The **Boyce Family** directed all of the memorial money to go to the new chandelier.

24 Dec 1989 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA The new chandelier was rededicated to both 1942 **John Knorr** and 1989 **John Boyce**.

1990 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Stephen Ministry begins: headed by **Kay Veller, Dorothy Hesskamp**, and **Cary Richert. Dorothy and Fred Rohrbach** resign.

“Women of Redeemer” renamed “Women’s Ministry”.

1990 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Kurt Amolsch** - Choir Director. **Mary Jo Disler** - organist. **Jan Pflieger** - assistant organist.

10 Jun 1990 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ordination of **Rev. Steven Nathaniel Smith**.

1990 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Women’s Ministry includes: Library, Friendship Circle, Mission Circle, Altar Guild, Bridge Groups, Bible classes, Single Women’s Bible study, Needlework, Cookbook. Board of Women’s Ministry begins with **Jan Endress** as chairperson.

1990 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Leslie Whitfield** - Woman of the year.

Feb 1991 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Joe Werner** accepts call as Minister of Children and Family Life.

1991 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Youth volunteer at Baldwin Center, **Gini Claudpierre** heads up Alternative Gift Market.

c 1991 Detroit/Royal Oak, MI USA Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf moves to St Paul Lutheran Church in Royal Oak, MI USA.

Mar 1991 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Jeanne Krauss** leaves position as Parish Administrator.

1991 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Jan Endress** - Woman of the Year. Heartwarmers Ministry begins.

May 1992 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Myrtle Wuggazer** retires (41 years) as Director of Westmaple Nursery School. **Bonnie Meisel** becomes the new Director of Westmaple Nursery School.

Jun 1992 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Toby Joeckel** leaves Redeemer to follow his wife's medical career.

1992 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Cheryl Shiller** - Woman of the Year.

Dec 1992 Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Gordon Light** retires from Cross of Christ.

1993 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Senior Ministry becomes the "Voyagers". **Rev. Gordon Light** becomes Pastoral assistant at Redeemer. **Kitty Sweitzer is** Children's Ministry Assistant. Choir director **Dr. Kurt Amolsch** resigns to take a position at Concordia, River Forest, IL USA. **Cindy Grove** - Interim Director of Lay Ministry. **Doree Lee and Barb Grattan** - Acolyte Directors.

1993 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Carol Leahy** - Woman of the Year.

1 Jan 1994 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Sharon Sweet** hired as Choir **Director** and Lay Ministry, **Marge Noettl** leaves Senior Ministry - **Cindy Grove** takes over. **Rachel Richert** begins Concordia to study church work. Leadership Team replaces Church Council.

1994 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Sandy Springer** - Woman of the Year.

9 Apr 1995 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA First Easter Egg Hunt with Jericho the Bunny, to take place on the front lawn after 10:30 service. 5" of snow moves it inside.

Oct. 1995 **Kitty Sweitzer** hired as full-time Children's Ministry.

1995 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Phyllis Viola** - Woman of the Year.

16 Mar 1996 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Gordon Light** is called to his heavenly home.

1996 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Kay Veller** - Woman of the Year.

1997 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Minnie Bernier** - Woman of the Year.

17 May 1998 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Installation of Rev. Randall **James Schlak** as Associate Pastor.

1998 Shanghai, China Concordia International School Shanghai (pre-school through high school) is started.

1998 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Helen Eckenrode** - Woman of the Year.

Fall 1999 Fort Wayne, IN USA Vicar **Cary Richert** begins Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

1999 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Ginny Schalm** - Woman of the Year.

29 Jan 2000 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Celebrating a lifetime of Service: **Pastor Duane Wuggazer** retires. **Rev. Randall James Schlak** - Pastor Randy - accepts the call as Senior Pastor.

July 2000 Vienna, Austria Group from Redeemer to see The Passion Play and also visited Vienna, Austria. While shopping several ladies visit J&L Lobmeyr Co. and receive a warm greeting when the women told them they were from Redeemer. This is the chandelier shop which replaced our chandelier in 1989.

15 Jul 2000 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Mark Wuggazer** becomes full-time youth director.

Fall 2000 Chicago, IL USA **Aaron Richert** attends Concordia University, Chicago, IL, to begin full time church work.

2000 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Nikki Petronio** - Woman of the Year.

2001 Birmingham, MI USA The first and former parsonage (at 496 W Lincoln, Birmingham, MI - NE corner of Lincoln and Stanley) was torn down. A new modern all-brick house was built in its place. As was the custom of the city at that time for a tear down and rebuilt home, the address was changed to 494 W Lincoln, Birmingham, MI USA. In 2007, the city building department said that changing the numbers when a house is torn down and another built is no longer done. Since then, the house number has stayed the same.

2001 Farmington/Birmingham, MI USA Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf congregation asked their new tenth pastor, **Rev. Thomas Dunseth**, if they could relocate further East. **Pastor Tom** sets out on a mission and just happens to drive by Redeemer, meets **Pastor Randy** and they join the Redeemer family.

25 Nov 2001 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ordination and Installation of **Rev. Cary Michael Richert** as Associate Pastor.

2001 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Marilyn Staargaard** - Woman of the Year.

14 Feb 2002 Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Randy and family** move into the newly remodeled Parsonage at 785 Westwood Dr., Birmingham, MI USA. The house

was donated to Redeemer and with some professional help and a lot of elbow grease by church members it was made ready for the Schlak family.

Fall 2002 Birmingham, MI USA **Gary Priskorn** hired at Minister of Family Life.

Dec 2002 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Gini Claudepierre** - Woman of the Year.

2003 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **‘Vi’ Viola Strech** - Woman of the Year.

Fall 2004 Fort Wayne, IN USA **Aaron Richert** begins his studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

2004 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Jeannie Buechner** - Woman of the Year.

Fall 2005 Fort Wayne, IN USA **Geoffrey Boyle** (married to Redeemer’s **Nikki Petronio Boyle**) begins studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. **Joanna Newman** is hired as Minister of Discipleship.

6 Nov 2005 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Construction for Columbarium is completed and dedicated on All Saints Day.

2005 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Jamie Burstein** - Woman of the Year.

Fall 2006 St Louis, MO USA **Mark Wuggazer** begins studies for the ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary, St Louis, MO. **Mark Bushiakovich** heads up the Youth Program in his absence.

2006 Birmingham, MI USA Three Lutheran churches - Our Shepherd, Ascension of Christ and Redeemer - purchased a Nativity set to be placed in Shane Park in downtown Birmingham, MI each year for the Christmas season.

2006 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Lynn Kartz** - Woman of the Year.

2007 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Joan Bowes** - Woman of the Year.

Jun 2008 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Aaron Michael Richert** is ordained.

Fall 2008 St Louis, MO USA **Mark Bushuiakovish** begins studies for the ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary, St Louis, MO.

2008 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Filippa Mammel** - Woman of the Year.

7 Jun 2009 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Mark Wuggazer** ordained and installed as Youth Pastor - 3rd generation Wuggazer at Redeemer.

c 24 Nov 2009 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Architectural Drawings done for Sacred Space Phase 1 (Town Square, nursery, Scheidt Rooms, Stage and Westmaple classrooms construction). **Steve Scheidt** to oversee the full Sacred Space project.

2009 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Denise McDonald** - Woman of the Year.

4 Apr 2010 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Easter Sunday Beam signing for Sacred Space Phase 1.

5 Apr 2010 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Groundbreaking and construction begins on Sacred Space Phase 1

22 Aug 2010 Wichita, KS USA **Rev Geoffrey Boyle** is ordained at Grace Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS USA.

23 Aug 2010 Southeast MI USA Pastor Emeritus **Carl Mehl** (1916-2010) is called to his Heavenly home.

12 Sep 2010 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Floor signing on Sacred Space Phase 1

27 Nov 2010 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Construction ends on Sacred Space Phase 1.

28 Nov 2010 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI Cornerstone Dedication of Sacred Space Phase 1.

2010 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Patty Schmidt** - Woman of the Year.

Fall 2011 St Louis, MO USA **C J Luttinen** starts at the Concordia Theological Seminary, St Louis, MO USA.

2011 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pam Lucas** - Woman of the Year.

2012 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Cherisse Baetz** - Woman of the Year.

2013 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Karen Rose** - Woman of the Year.

2014 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Julie Buechner** - Woman of the Year.

7 Jun 2015 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Calvin 'C J' Luttinen** is ordained.

2015 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Nancy Lesinski** - Woman of the Year.

14 Jun 2016 FL USA **Pastor Duane Wuggazer** was called to his Heavenly home.

2016 Hanoi, Vietnam LCMS expands with its 3rd Asian Concordia International School. It serves students from Elementary through High School.

2016 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Karen Pridmore** - Woman of the Year.

May 2017 **Laura Vowell** hired as fulltime Director of Middle School Ministry, Family Life, and Outreach. **Laura** also took over Confirmation in 2018.

31 Oct 2017 World 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

19 Nov 2017 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Rev. Tyler Anthony Walworth** was installed as an Associate Pastor.

2017 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Leanna Bush** - Woman of the Year.

2018 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Michele Margosian** - Woman of the Year.

1 Apr 2019 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Architectural drawings done for Sacred Space Phase 2 (New Sanctuary, Bridal lounge, Gathering/Resource/Classrooms, Staff/Office rooms and Columbarium construction).

2019 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Sue Soltess** - Woman of the year.

Fall 2020 St Louis, MO/Birmingham, MI USA **Vicar James Greenwalt** starts the Specific Ministry Pastor - SMP, an online/in person course of study for the ministry, via Concordia Seminary in St Louis, MO USA.

2020 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Donna Hollis & Debi Hollis** - Women of the Year.

19 Dec 2020 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Last wedding in the old sanctuary - **Stephanie Raezler and Drew Dettlinger**.

Jan 2021 Birmingham/Dearborn, MI USA **Pastor Tyler** leaves Redeemer to take a call to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dearborn, MI USA.

31 Jan 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Last Baptism in the old Sanctuary - **Hannah Marie Bienkowski**.

8-20 Feb 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Bible is read cover to cover in the Sanctuary by Redeemer members and staff before it is torn down for Phase 2.

13 Feb 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Pastor Emeritus **Milton Schemm** was called to his heavenly home.

15 Feb 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Demolition and construction begins on Sacred Space Phase 2.

20 Feb 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Milton Schemm's** funeral is the last funeral in the Old Sanctuary.

21 Feb 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Decommissioning of the old Sanctuary. Worship moves to the gym during reconstruction.

28 Feb 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Commissioning of the Gym as our temporary Sanctuary.

14 Mar 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Decommissioning of the Bells and Chimes.

6 Jun 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Groundbreaking for Sacred Space Phase 2.

12 Sep 2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Signing of the Beam for Sacred Space Phase 2.

2021 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Janice Kanka** - Woman of the Year.

21 May 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Auction held with items made from old Sanctuary materials and organ pipes and Floor signing for Sacred Space Phase 2.

12 Jun 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Corner Stone dedication for Sacred Space Phase 2.

18 Jun 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA First wedding in the new Sanctuary - **Douglas William Dutton and Danielle Lynn Prentice**, without pews.

17 Jul 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA First Baptism in the new Sanctuary - **Henry Joseph Dobring**, in the final construction stage.

c 15 Aug 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Construction ends on Sacred Space Phase 2.

11 Sep 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Decommissioning of the Gym as the temporary Sanctuary.

18 Sep 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Dedication of the New Sanctuary, Bells and Chimes as worship moves out of the gym. The old pews were used in the gym and were moved into the new Sanctuary until the new ones arrived.

23 Sep 2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA First funeral in the new Sanctuary - **Shirley Pariseau**.

2022 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Lynn Kubik Mee Duerr** - Woman of the Year.

2022-2025 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Planning for Redeemer's 100th Anniversary.

21 May 2023 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Ordination and Installation of **Rev. James Henry Greenwalt II** as Assistant Pastor.

Fall 2023 St Louis, MO/Birmingham, MI USA **Pastor Jimmy Greenwalt** continues with the Specific Ministry Pastor - SMP, an online/in person course of study for the ministry, via Concordia Seminary in St Louis, MO USA through Summer 2024 when he will complete the program.

2023 USA 800,000 active members of the LCMS in the USA.

2023 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA **Kathy Eley** - Woman of the Year.

2024 USA Significant difference in theology between **Pastors Walther** vs **Loehe** within the LCMS is still going on today. Followers of **Pastor Loehe** (who has never stepped foot in America) believe in the Elevation of the Clergy. Redeemer is firmly a part of the Priesthood of ALL believers as preached by **Rev. Dr. C F W Walther**, the first President of both Synod and Concordia Theological Seminary, St Louis, MO.

1 Mar 2024 Ann Arbor, MI USA Concordia, Ann Arbor announces that even though it is having financial troubles; the school will be open through the 2024-2025 academic year

Apr 2024 **Middle East, USA, World** Hamas attacks Israel

2024 USA Today, **Rev. Dr. C F W Walther** is revered as the leading Lutheran theologian of his time, and he's fondly known as the "Father of the Missouri Synod."

1 Nov 2024 Redeemer, Birmingham, MI USA Debut of the 100th Anniversary Celebration at Redeemer. Featured each month are displays and a video showing pictorial memories of our building and congregation throughout the decades since its origination in 1924.

24 Nov 2024 – 30 Nov 2025

Redeemer began its year-long 100th anniversary celebration. The kickoff was on November 24th, when we had a service at Churchill's Cigar Bar in Birmingham, the site of our very first church service in 1924. Each month we celebrated a different ministry and how it has grown over the decades. The hallmark event was held on June 1st, 2025

when Pastor Mark Wuggazer, former Youth Pastor at Redeemer and son and grandson of our earlier pastors Ted and Duane Wuggazer, came from Texas to preach. The granddaughter of our first Pastor, Luther Schuessler, Gay Wolf, flew in from Minneapolis, Minnesota to celebrate her grandfather's legacy with us. Rev. Dr. Geoff Boyle preached on Reformation Sunday. The year-long celebration included photo displays on the south wall of the Town Square and video slide shows presented in the Town Square. Special coffee hours were hosted each month, and the opportunity to honor a loved one with a special coffee hour was offered. Special music, events and speakers were highlights of the year.

The monthly ministries were celebrated as follows:

November 2024: Architectural history
December 2024: Christmas through the years
January 2025: Family Life Ministry
February 2025: Missions
March 2025: Men and Women's Ministry
April 2025: Youth Ministry
May 2025: Children's Ministry
June 2025: Pastoral Ministry
July 2025: Worship and Staff
August 2025: Congregational Care
September 2025: Fellowship
October 2025: Westmaple Nursery
November 2025: Music Ministry and our veterans

Our Seminarians now reside:

Pastor Duane Wuggazer Heaven
Pastor Kevin Jones Emeritus, Immanuel, Bay City, MI Interim Pastor, Saginaw, MI
Pastor Steve Smith On staff at Concordia University Wisconsin, Cedarburg, WI
Pastor Cary Richert Emeritus, Caledonia, MI
Pastor Aaron Richert Grace Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM
Pastor Dr Geoffrey Boyle On staff at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN
Pastor Mark Wuggazer Cypress, TX
Pastor Mark Bushiakovich Our Savior, Nashville, TN
Pastor C J Luttinen Risen Christ Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS
Pastor Jimmy Greenwalt Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham, MI

Our Assistant/Associate Pastors now reside:

Pastor Werner Kurtz Heaven
Pastor Robert Seizinger Unknown
Pastor Holgar Cattau Heaven

Pastor Toby Joeckel Emeritus, Yakima, WA

Pastor Tyler Walworth Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Beverly Hills, MI
USA and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dearborn, MI

Our Senior Pastors now reside:

Pastor Luther Schuessler 1924-1926 Heaven

Pastor Roland Scaer 1926-1931 Heaven

Pastor Ted Wuggazer 1931-1966 Heaven

Pastor Duane Wuggazer 1966-2000 Heaven

Pastor Randy Schlak 2000- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham, MI

Our Pastors Emeritus now reside:

Pastor Carl Mehl Heaven

Pastor Gordon Light Heaven

Pastor Milton Schemm Heaven

Pastor Ronald Farah Heaven