

THE REDEEMER

REMINDER

55 Wyckoff Avenue Ramsey, NJ 07446 Phone 201.327.0148



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE
REDEEMER

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, PhD

Dear Redeemer family,
On Sunday, Jan 21, we enjoyed blessing our confirmation students and their Faith Mentors at our 10:15 worship service. Each one put their hands into the baptismal font while I read a blessing over them. Then they each took a stone inscribed with a word (faith, hope, love, etc.) from out of the water to keep and use in private prayer. This dedication was designed to help both mentors and students understand that their Baptism is more than an initiation or simple ritual that happened long ago. Our baptisms are really a reservoir of spiritual gifts that we can draw from as we go through our lives. No matter what you are going through at any time in your life, you can find the gifts of the Holy Spirit at your fingertips when you recall with gratitude the truth of your Baptism--that God loves you unconditionally and is always helping form in you the trust in His grace that you need to live a life worthy of that love.



As I meditated afterwards on the ritual that day, and thought about the font that we use for Baptism, and the number of people over the years who have been baptized in that font, I marvelled at how many blessings God sends into the world year after year as we bring loved ones to that font to be baptized. The very font that we use today was dedicated to the memory of Emeline Shufeldt in 1915! Think about all the people whom Redeemer has been blessed to baptize over the 109 years that we have been using that font! And how many blessings have those so baptized called upon in their own lives, and how many blessings from that baptism have those people shared in the world with other people? Regardless of how "religious" those baptized ones have remained, the blessings of God flow through them best when they act like Jesus towards others. The baptisms themselves are really the outward sign of the truth of God's love that all those blessings are based on. So, we best facilitate the spread of God's blessings by remembering our own baptisms all the time and humbly seeking to teach each other that God's love in Jesus Christ is abundant and free-flowing!

As I meditated on all this blessing, I gave thanks to God for the ministry of Redeemer over its 157 years, and for the members who continue to make this ministry possible. Yes, we have a wonderful legacy in the faith, one that stretches deep into the past, and we thank God that we are in a position to keep sharing those blessings with others by using the time, talent, and resources we have. Let us continue to pray and plan for the coming year's ministries so that we may continue to participate in the great outpouring of grace that God gives to the world through the presence of Christ in the Holy Spirit. Amen. +Pastor Linderman

BY JUDITH SCHAEFER

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony." (Colossians 3:14)

A big Thank You to our Redeemer family! Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign for 2024, "Lead With Love", saw 77 Members pledge for a total of \$202,196. If you remember, the 2022 campaign for 2023 garnered 75 Pledges for \$174,611. This shows an increase of \$23,288! As we reported at the Annual Meeting on Jan 28, we are grateful for all of your prayerful support and generosity! God is good!

Frequently Asked Question: When I make a pledge, how does it help Redeemer?

- Your pledge during the annual campaign each year is VERY important to the work and planning of the church. We hope each giver can meet their pledge by the end of the calendar year, but your pledge is not binding. The money you give from your pledge is counted towards the support of Redeemer's staff, ministries, and property. Money you choose to give to our "Ministry Partners" is NOT considered part of your pledge to support Redeemer. So, for example, if you give a total of \$1000 to Redeemer for the year and direct the Financial Secretary to send \$250 of that money to ELCA World Hunger or St. Stephan's Grace (for ex.), then your pledge to Redeemer is really \$750. Of course, the entire \$1000 is tax deductible. We are thankful that YOU, our entire congregation, help take care of our church with your three T's -Time, Talent, and Treasure.



EVANGELISM

BY CAROL DUNBAR

An update from Daudi

My four hosts decided we should split up. Two set off to a farm that they guessed was about a 30-minute walk ahead. The driver, Abraham, and I stayed with the vehicle, continuing to try to free the diff that had run aground, but with the wrong tools (we had wrenches, a jack, and a tire iron, but needed a shovel or a pick-axe).

In the two hours that we were stuck, not a person or any other mammal had passed. Just birds and insects above the scrub and the sorghum stalks that look almost like corn, doused in warm early morning light.

After eventually getting the vehicle free, in stages, we started down the road. Then the driver took a right turn into the fields, mowing down sorghum stalks whose grain made a splashing sound hitting the windshield like beads on a tile floor. As we went, Abraham stood tall out the window to get a better look, trying to find any sign of our colleagues.

We found them in a little clearing in the fields. There was a short acacia tree, an ancient tractor, a small pond lined with bushes, and a hut. Our colleagues were there with the farm's caretaker, having a cup of tea in the shade of the tree. The caretaker, a thin man who looked about 50 wearing a white vest, made tea for the rest of us while they showed me different sorghum plants nearby - contrasting healthy ones with macronutrient-deficient ones.

I wondered why my hosts wanted to show me this place. It is a sorghum field that looks like every other sorghum field. If you are from the American Midwest, maybe you can imagine visiting friends in Iowa who wanted to drive a couple of hours to show you a cornfield.

But it was their field. My hosts were our ecumenical partners in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. They had been given land to cultivate, and they were proud of it. It was 1,000 acres, and so far they had 250 acres in production. In a country where most agriculture is only for subsistence, farming on this scale is novel and could be transformational for a church to have a local source of income to help them achieve their diakonal dreams - things like subsidizing school fees for those who can't pay the tuition of \$83 dollars per semester at the diocese's secondary school nearby in Renk town, and paying teachers better salaries.

They were proud of their accomplishment - farming 250 acres, and of having a vision for farming the remaining 750 acres. That vision was worth the ride.



BY FRAN MORTON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Then Sings my Soul

I often get comment like - "I'd love to sing in the choir, but I don't read music." My reply is always, reading music is nice but not necessary. Come anyway. Reading music allows you a short-cut to learning a choir piece. By reading music, you can translate the written music on a page directly into sounds in your ears. From there it's an easy step to reproducing those sounds with your voice. But reproducing sounds with your voice is what music is all about. And that's what we learn to do in choir rehearsal. If you don't read music, you'll

listen to your part a few times and then - you've got it! Learning the music is what rehearsal is all about. Whether you learn it by reading first or listening first it all leads to the same place.

So what does go on in choir rehearsal? Well, let's start with the purpose of rehearsing - we have two goals. 1) to learn the music so we can confidently and accurately reproduce what the composer put down on paper for us, and, 2) to interpret the composer's meaning - the message he/she wrote the piece to express. Generally, we learn to sing the music accurately first and then work out the nuances of the means that we want to share with you on Sunday morning. Making all this happen takes some time and several practices. Only when we're satisfied that a piece is sounding good to us do we sing it on Sunday for you.

So, reading music is a good thing, but it's not the most important thing about singing with the choir. We learn pieces together during rehearsal. And keep working on them until we can sing them the way we want you to hear them. Come join us. Rehearsals Wednesday evenings at 7:30P in the Sanctuary.

FAITH FORMATION

BY ANNIE GESUALDO, FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR

Hello Everyone!

Happy February! The month of hearts, valentines, and love! We also welcome in the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday being on Valentine's Day. What a great way to begin a liturgical season that prepares us heart and soul for the greatest love story ever witnessed - the death and resurrection of our Lord.



In Faith Formation we will be starting First Holy Communion preparation on Sunday February 11th. In Sunday School Large group gatherings, we will be taking about the different ways we pray, and Jesus' work and love for us.

Confirmation classes continue to meet once a month. We held a Mentor/Confirmand blessing on January 21. Mentors and students came together at the Baptismal Font for a very beautiful and symbolic moment. Each placed their hands in the Water, to remind them of their baptismal promises and to accept Jesus our living water. As they stone was a word, faith, peace, family etc.). They dried each other's hands as Pastor asked for the Holy Spirit's presence and gifts to be awakened and strengthened. Following the service, we all met and had small and large group discussions based on the words chosen and the individual meanings in our lives at this time.

ELCA Youth Gathering planning is underway. This extraordinary event is being held in New Orleans this summer in July. We held an information meeting at the end of January for parents and high school students.

During Lent we are offered so many places "to be". Places to pray, share our time, and reflect in order to open our hearts, cleanse our souls and prepare ourselves to accept the light of the risen Lord on Easter Sunday. Where is your favorite place to be? Do you think God has a favorite place to be? His presence fills Heaven and Earth but I think His favorite place is at the center of our hearts. This Lent let's invite Him in. Let Him fill us with the life, light, and love of His Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit. And let that light be our guide to where we need to be.



BY HEATHER LAYNG, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIR

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Confirmation Class

FEB/MAR SCHEDULE:

- FEB 4 - classes
- FEB 11 - classes
- FEB 18 - NO classes
- FEB 25 - classes
- MAR 3 - classes
- MAR 10 - classes
- MAR 17 - NO classes
- MAR 24 - NO classes

FEB-MAY SCHEDULE:

- FEB 4 - class
- MAR 10 - class
- APRIL 21 - class
- MAY 5 - class
- MAY 19 - **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

- FEB 11 - 1st class
- FEB 25 - 2nd class
- MAR 10 - 3rd class
- MAR 17 - **First Holy Communion Celebration, 10:15 am service**

IN OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

Spotlight: Board of Education Elections



The Ramsey School District Board of Education is pleased to welcome two new members to the board: **Steve McKnight** and **Mike Augello**. They are longtime residents of the borough, both graduates of Ramsey High School, with children enrolled in the school district. McKnight and Augello will join the board as two members, **Andrea Lamendola** and **Ralph Caputo**, did not file for re-election. Also re-elected in November was **Laura Behrmann**, whose service as Board president began in 2017.

Thank you

Dear Redeemer Family, I want to say Thank You on behalf of me and my family for the generous Christmas gift! I feel very blessed to share in this ministry with you all. God bless you all in the new year! - Pastor Linderman

Laura Behrmann Appointed to County BOE

Laura Behrmann, who begins a sixth term on the Ramsey School District Board of Education this January, recently was appointed to the Bergen County Board of Education.

Behrmann was first elected to the RSD Board of Education in April 2008. As a lawyer who worked as in-house management for an insurance company for more than two decades, she has contributed extensive experience in negotiations, employee management and risk management.

A 23-year resident of Ramsey with two school-aged children, Behrmann is very active in the community. She has volunteered with the Boy Scouts, Ramsey Ambulance, her church and the Junior Women's Club. She is a board member of the Ramsey Soccer Association, as well as the registrar, volunteer coordinator and committee member for BSA Troop 31.

In 15 years on the Board, Behrmann has served on every committee, and, as president, an ex-officio member of all committees.

"As a Board member, it is my job to focus on student achievement while also balancing the needs of our community, taxpayers and staff," she said. "Ramsey is an excellent school district, but we need to continuously evaluate what we are doing and how to continue to excel."



Laura Behrmann was in the spotlight in the most recent issue of Ramsey School District's News and Views.

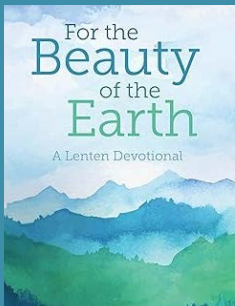
CONGRATULATIONS TO LAURA ON HER APPOINTMENT TO COUNTY BOE!

Thank you to those who helped take down the outdoor nativity scene on January 6th. It was a big help to get it put away before the snow storm.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN PRAYER

Join us on Wednesday nights from 2/21 through 3/20 for this year's Lenten prayer series on "Holy Lament." There are several different kinds of lament described in the Bible, and we will learn about these very important attitudes and practices for our individual and communal prayer life. This series emphasizes lament as one of the more faithful things we can do sometimes, especially in the face of hardship, challenge, or grief. Join us for Soup Supper beforehand at 6pm. The prayer service starts at 7pm.



THURSDAY NIGHT LENTEN BOOK CLUB

Starting February 15th – March 21st (7-8PM)
In person with zoom link available

Let's take a walk this Lent with author Dr. Rev. Leah D. Schade. Dr. Schade is an ordained Lutheran Minister (ELCA) and is the Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary. Using nature's bounty and Jesus' words, we will travel the shorelines, gardens, and mountainsides together, exploring what it is we may need to let go of. Making us ready to breathe in the fresh clean air of Spring and accept the Light of the Risen with a lighter heart. The daily devotions can be read and reflected on in your time. We can meet weekly to share and pray together but to accommodate our busy lives, weekly summaries and meditations will be emailed. Invite your friends and family. Contact Annie Gesualdo for more information or to [sign up](#).

LENTEN CALENDAR

Every Sunday with Holy Communion Service at 8 am and 10:15 am

Ash Wednesday

February 14, at noon and 7:30 pm
Service of Holy Communion and Ashes

Sunday School in Lent

at 9:15 am 2/25, 3/3, 3/10

Wednesday Night "Soup and Supper"

at 6 pm 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20

Wednesday Night Lenten Prayer

Evening Prayer Service at 7pm
2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

March 24 at 8 and 10:15 am
Festival Service of Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday

March 28, at 12 noon and 7:30 pm
Service of Holy Communion

Good Friday

March 29, at 12 noon and 7:30 pm Service of Prayer and Meditation

Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, March 31
Sunrise Service at Redeemer Cemetery at 6:30 am 90 Chapel Road, Mahwah

Service of Holy Communion at 8:30 am and 10:30 am



Above, our mentors and confirmation students receive a blessing in worship on Sunday, January 21st.



Left, Pastor welcomes (from left to right) new members Carol DiLorenzo and Scott & Theresa Shedler.

We give thanks to our volunteers, members and staff who reviewed and celebrated our ministries for 2023 at our Annual Congregation meeting on January 28th.



FEBRUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| 28 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online) 11:30am Annual Congregation Meeting 7:00pm Youth Gathering information session | 29 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters | 30 1:00pm Staff Meeting | 31 10:00am Bible Study | 1 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers | 2 | 3 |
| 4 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online) 4:30pm Confirmation Class | 5 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters | 6 1:00pm Brownstone Quilters monthly meeting 1:00pm Staff Meeting | 7 10:00am Bible Study | 8 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 10:00am Redeemer Knitting/Crocheting Group 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers | 9 | 10 |
| 11 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online) | 12 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters 7:00pm Park Toastmasters | 13 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Ramsey Area Garden Club 7:30pm Church Council Meeting | 14 Ash Wednesday 12:00pm Service of Holy Communion with Ashes 7:30pm Service of Holy Communion with Ashes | 15 Redeemer Reminder articles due 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers 7pm Lenten Book Club | 16 | 17 |
| 18 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online) | 19 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters | 20 1:00pm Staff Meeting | 21 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Soup and Supper 7:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer Service | 22 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 10:00am Redeemer Knitting/Crocheting Group 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers 7pm Lenten Book Club | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online) | 26 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters 7:00pm Park Toastmasters | 27 1:00pm Staff Meeting | 28 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Soup and Supper 7:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer Service | 29 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers 7pm Lenten Book Club | 1 | 2 |

Virtual Worship Services are Live on Facebook @ The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Ramsey, NJ. and on YouTube Channel "Lamb and Flag Ministries"



May God Bless you on your birthday

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Thomas Doherty | 1 |
| Sofia Covello | 2 |
| Lily Mulhall | 2 |
| Joan Wilke-Schreiber | 2 |
| Justin Hawkesworth | 3 |
| Ian McKeown | 4 |
| Mackenzie Backhaus | 5 |
| Ryan Hanys | 8 |
| Zachary Pacenza | 9 |
| Joyce Manke | 10 |
| Colin Milde | 10 |
| Doreen Rosen | 10 |
| Doreen Schreeck | 13 |
| Max Rosen | 14 |
| Keith Gager | 15 |
| Stewart Smith | 15 |
| Rose Lempp | 16 |
| Christopher Barbara | 20 |
| James Finlayson | 20 |
| Scott Ponath | 20 |
| Taylor Vozeh | 21 |
| Reid Cusack | 22 |
| Aiden Bogatch | 24 |
| Karen Wilson | 24 |
| Lois Berger | 25 |
| Mason Hawkesworth | 25 |
| Andrea Wortmann | 25 |
| Laura Behrmann | 26 |
| Nora Tarzian | 26 |
| Aiden Daehnke-Falbo | 27 |
| Payton Nista | 27 |
| Drew Bickford | 28 |



Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Ed and Gail Stengel | 8 |
| Amber and Ray Cusack | 14 |
| George and Kathy Westcott | 16 |
| Jennifer and Matthew Hommez | 19 |



Baptismal Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Chelsey Scala Hudson | 1 |
| Chris Scala | 1 |
| John Redin | 13 |
| Kailey Austin | 15 |
| Kathryn Kissel | 19 |
| Marshall Smith | 20 |
| Alex Dunbar | 22 |
| Joe Dunbar | 22 |
| Courtney Falbo | 25 |

If you notice your special day is not listed during the year, contact the office at office@redeemerramsey.org.



Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of March are due Thursday, February 15th. Please submit to office@redeemerramsey.org