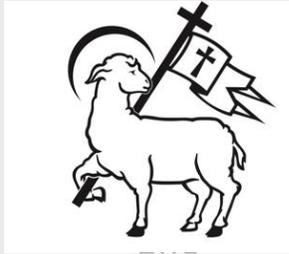


# THE REDEEMER REMINDER

55 Wyckoff Avenue | Ramsey, NJ 07446 | Phone 201.327.0148 | Fax 201-825-2149



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**Please note copies of the monthly Lay Ministry Schedule can be found in the Narthex.**

## Pastor's Message

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, Ph. D.

There's a great quote about worship that I happened upon accidentally. It comes from the PBS show, "Call the Midwife" (which I have yet to watch). Sister Monica Joan, the lead character who is a Roman Catholic nun, says, "The liturgy is of comfort to the disarranged mind. We need not choose our thoughts; the words are aligned, like a rope for us to cling to." I couldn't agree more. What a relief it is to Christians that at the end/beginning of a long week, we can gather together to grab onto the words used in our Christian worship, cling to them, and be pulled thereby into the Spirit's tether. A great comfort, indeed!

As we enter the Advent season this month, I want to re-invite you to experience the comfort of worship and its expression of faith in Christ's mercy by attending regular worship on Sunday mornings. I also want to invite you to experience three special services that are intended to help us through the frenetic schedule of our culture's countdown to Christmas. These are our traditional Christmas pageant (Dec 15, 9:15am), the Ramsey Community Advent Lessons and Carols (Dec 15, at Redeemer, 3pm), and our community 'Awaiting the Light' service (Dec 22, 3pm).

This year, our Christmas pageant format is new because we are setting the pageant within the normal service of Holy Communion. This way, the work of the children in presenting the story of Christ's birth, and its importance for our faith, is used to prepare the congregation for Holy Communion, where we believe Christ is most clearly present in our lives. The community Advent Lessons and Carols service provides us and our local Christian neighbors with a deeper appreciation of the way Christ's birth fits into God's Salvation history, and helps us prepare for the "advent" of our Lord, both in history and at the end of time. The 'Awaiting the Light' service is designed to address the power of nostalgia and grief in our lives, particularly for those who find the holidays a challenge. It wraps this longing in the promises of Christ's coming and invites us into the "hope of Christ."

Advent is a time, like Lent, in which to enter with new vigor into the spirituality of the tradition. Like the quote above says, the liturgy (tradition) lines up words for us to use, and like a rope we can cling to, supports us in our spiritual journey. Is your journey disrupted by the ebb and flow of everyday life? Has your faith felt dry or burdened by questions, doubts and anxiety? Are you feeling "disarranged" in your thinking because of the chaos of our political and social lives? Then, through the worship traditions of the Church, God's help is here for you. Grab the rope and let God's grace to the work.

+PL

## Evangelism

by Carol Dunbar, Chair

The Evangelism Committee is asking for your continued support for Pastor Janelle and her ministry with the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Rwanda this Advent Season.

Special offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex throughout the month of December. Your donation in the envelope can be added to the collection plate or sent in to the church office. Keep our friends in Rwanda in mind at this blessed time of year.

Advent Calendars from the ELCA will also be available at the end of November. Please take them to share with your family and friends.

## Property and Grounds

by John P.L. Manke, Chair

Electrical: Spot lamp replaced under warranty on side of building by elevator. Aiphone monitor replaced on second floor of educational building, unit was defective. Ramsey Fire Department is recommending that we replace all the heads as they are 20+ years old. Commercial Protective quoted \$5,295.00. Recommending for 2020 budget.

Plumbing: New circulation pump installed in church heating system.

General Maintenance: Plastic protection added to new maple tree as the deer were rubbing the bark off the trunk. Hornets nest to be removed once cool weather is here. PM completed on heating. Waiting on 3rd sealing and striping quote.



**#1 holiday hack:**

When you buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

**amazon**smile

## Social Ministry

by Sharon Hearn, Chair

Thank you to all who donated items to our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thank you Karin Pralle and Sharon Vogel for once again being our coordinators!

Social Ministry envelope collections for the month of December will be donated to NJ Synod of the ELCA.



## From Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey

Expand Your Knowledge

Please join us at one of the upcoming community events. Crane's Mill and The Villa are programs of Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ. These fun and educational programs are open to all, but space is limited, so please RSVP to insure your spot.

**Holiday Apartment Spotlight:** Cranes Mill  
Thursday, December 12, 2pm RSVP to  
973-240-8414  
or [CRANESMILL@LSMNJ.ORG](mailto:CRANESMILL@LSMNJ.ORG)

### Redeemer Quilters - First and Third Tuesdays at 10am

Redeemer Quilters meet at 10am on the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Come help put together quilts distributed by Lutheran World Relief.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry - Wednesdays at 10:30am in Pastor's office

For knitters and people who crochet to make prayer shawls and blankets for those in need. If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving a prayer shawl, email Sharon Vogel at [slvogel27@gmail.com](mailto:slvogel27@gmail.com) or call the church office.

**Nativity Set Up**



On Saturday, December 7, 9AM, your help is needed to set up our life-sized Nativity scene on the

front lawn of the church. If you can carry little things or carry big things or put up the stable or spread straw or just help in general.

The figures will be moved from their storage area in the Education Building and placed in front of the church and bell tower. If you can give an hour or two - GREAT! If you have any questions please call Lynn Huggard at 201.327.9289. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Fellowship Hall.

**Light an Advent Candle**



For each of the Sundays in Advent we need volunteers to lead a brief responsive reading at the beginning of the worship service

and to light the candle(s) on the Advent wreath located on a stand just inside the altar rail.

This is a great opportunity for a family or a couple of friends to work together and to help the whole congregation.



The Giving Tree is up in the narthex. Please take a tag, sign your name on the poster next to the number you selected,

and return your wrapped gift to the tree by December 8th. Our gifts this year will again be distributed to children at Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, St. Stephen's Grace Church, and Catholic Charities Paterson. If you have any questions, please see Karen Vozech.



**Christmas Poinsettias**

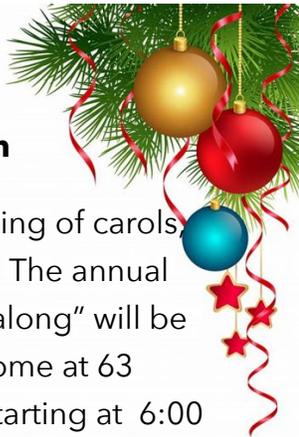
Now is the time to make a

special donation for a poinsettia to decorate our altar this Christmas.

Poinsettias may be given "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. Suggested donation is \$20. Checks should be made payable to the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and sent to the church office. Remember to include a note as to who is being remembered / honored or use a flower envelope available in the narthex.

**Advent Party Dec. 15th**

Join us for a merry evening of carols, conversation and treats! The annual Advent Party and “sing along” will be held at Karen Vozech’s home at 63 Upland Road, Ramsey starting at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited. A signup sheet will be placed in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring an appetizer or a dessert. This is a perfect way to begin the holiday season with good friends, delicious food and fellowship.



**Christmas Pageant, Sunday  
December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am**

One worship service at 9:15am on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> that includes the Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School 9:15am-10:05am and Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 2pm.

**Mitten Tree - Beginning December 1**



The Mitten Tree will be placed in the lobby of the Education Building. We are asking the congregation and the Sunday School children to bring in warm gloves, scarves, hats and socks and hang them on the tree for donations. These items will go to Ramsey Responds. The Advent Mitten Tree collection will end on Sunday, December 15.

We invite you to join us in celebrating  
The seasons of Advent and Christmas 2019

**The Sundays of Advent**

Service with Holy Communion  
12/1, 12/8, 12/22 at 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

**Sunday School**

December 1, 8, & 22 at 9:15 a.m.

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant**

12/15 one service with Holy Communion at 9:15 a.m.

**Awaiting the Light**

December 22 at 3 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Services**

Tuesday, December 24  
Family Service at 4:30p.m.  
Candlelight Services at 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

**Christmas Day Service**

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:15 a.m.

**1st Sunday of Christmas**

December 29 at 10:15 a.m.

## Faith Formation Views

by Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director

On Friday, November 15th – Sunday, November 17th Pastor Linderman, Stephanie Doyle and Jennifer Hommez brought 18 middle and high school students to the NJ Synod Youth Assembly at Fairview Lake YMCA Camp in Stillwater, NJ. 183 participants and adult leaders attended the event from all over NJ. The theme was “Be: Be You, Be Engaged, Be Loved, Be Sent.”

Pastor Linderman led the synod band, which played many favorites over the course of the weekend. Stephanie and Jennifer were small group leaders for a group of middle school students from different parts of New Jersey. In small groups the students played games, read Bible stories, completed activities, including creating their own videos, and prayed together. For Stephanie and Jennifer, the small group time was the most meaningful part of the weekend. Saturday afternoon the students traveled to different stations and activities around the property as part of a Faith Fair. You can see some of the photos from the scavenger hunt on Redeemer’s Facebook page and below in this newsletter. There was worship both Saturday night and Sunday morning. And of course there was sleeping in cabins, eating in the dining hall, and plenty of fresh air and sunshine.

Sunday morning, Pastor Lee Zandstra asked the participants where they saw God that weekend. Many kids and a few adults went to the microphone and shared meaningful thoughts and reflections about the weekend. Stephanie asked the Redeemer’s youth and this is what some of them said:

I liked small group, particularly making the video about Jesus calling people to make disciples. – Caeden, grade 7

I had a great time and liked everything! – Chad, grade 6

My favorite part was learning about how our church can have an impact on the world around us. – Colette, grade 8

I thought the most special part for me at the NJ Synod Youth Retreat was the prayer/worship stations late on Saturday night. This was very important to me because it gave me a sense of direction, and it helped me to remember that people can care about you, and they will help you to the best of their abilities. I prayed with Pastor Lee, and I felt a sympathetic connection that was very special. I enjoyed the Youth Retreat very much, and I plan on going next year. – Elise, grade 8

I loved the songs, seeing friends from confirmation class, and late night worship. – Lily, grade 9

My favorite part was meeting up with the friends I met at last year’s NJ Synod Retreat. – Mackenzie, grade 9

I liked the music and playing in the Synod band. – Mira, grade 10

My favorite part was being in the cabin with new and old friends. – Morgan, grade 8

I liked getting to relax by the lake during free time. – Sam, grade 7

My favorite part was the music and the singing. – Trinity, grade 7

by Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director and Heather Layng, Chair

**All-Ages Sunday School Classes in Fellowship Hall, Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 22 from 9:15-10:05**

We will have an All-Ages Sunday School classes in Fellowship Hall on December 1 and December 22. Parents are welcome to stay. Grandparents are welcome too. Children love to see their family members participating in their faith formation activities. Confirmation and high school aged helpers are encouraged and welcome to attend. It will be a fun time for kids and adults alike!

**Raise Them Up! - January 12 at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall**

We are continuing our ministry to parents of children and teens this school year. While their children are in Sunday school, parents are invited to meet with Pastor Linderman to begin a dialogue on what it means to raise a child as a Lutheran in 2020. This is an opportunity to meet other parents as well as engage in parenting discussions. This year we will be discussing the book *Liberating Youth from Adolescence* by Jeremy Paul Myers. The book can be purchased for \$13.88 on smile.amazon.com, or just come to the discussion. We will be discussing Chapter 3 of the book during this third of six sessions.

**Save the Date - Vacation Bible School, August 3-7, 2020**

Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. The VBS that's just the ticket! Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT Save the date! January 3-5, 2020**

Come together with your peers, ages 18 to 30(ish), at Cross Roads! Learning, fellowship, worship, and nature walks await. The Young Adult retreat starts on Friday, January 3, at 7 pm and ends after lunch on Sunday, January 5. Participants stay in the Christ Center and the Beisler Center, with housing being assigned on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Cost for the weekend retreat is \$65 per person.  
<https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/young-adult-retreat/>



**NO Sunday School December 29<sup>th</sup>  
Enjoy the Winter Break!**

by Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director and Heather Layng, Chair

### **My Grown-Up & Me Sunday School class**

An adult/child Sunday school class is offered during Sunday school for our littlest members and an accompanying adult. If you have a child under 3, please consider bringing them to this program. You will meet other parents and your child will make his or her first Sunday school friends. It is a fun time had by all!

### **Activity Bags for Worship**

There are colorful canvas activity bags in the Coat Room for children to use during the worship services.

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10am**

Wednesday morning Bible study meets at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

### **Adult Education - Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30pm**

For the 2019-2020 year, we will be using the seven part series entitled "Animate: Bible." This program digs deep into the Bible and how it came to be and is designed to reinvigorate and deepen our understanding of the Bible. Topics include Canon, History, Testaments, Gospels, Genre, Interpretation and Grace. The third session is on "Testaments: One Story, Two Parts."

## **Music News: Their Voices Join Your Singing**

by Fran Morton, Redeemer Music Director

We've just finished Ramsey's first ecumenical service of 2019 - Thanksgiving at St. John's Episcopal Church. Choir members from St. John's, First Presbyterian, Redeemer and St. Paul's sang; clergy from those churches offered readings and prayers for an hour on Sunday afternoon. Truly a wonderful way to usher in the first season of the 2020 Liturgical year. If you missed it (and other than choir members, Pastor Michael, Dean and Mickey, Stephanie and me most everyone from Redeemer did miss it), you skipped a great experience. One of the choir anthems needed three soloists - Redeemer supplied two of the three - Jen Hommez and Steve Koestner. They sounded wonderful.

True, you missed a really good ecumenical service, but no need to despair. Yet in 2019 there are two more opportunities, both of them hosted at Redeemer. Mark your calendar and be sure to attend:

- December 8<sup>th</sup> 3PM at Redeemer.** Advent Lessons and Carols. I'm sure some of you have watched the Christmas Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge. This is the same idea-readings, anthems and congregational singing only moved back a season to Advent. Come and join us! There will be plenty of opportunity to sing seasonal carols as well as to listen to the readings and combined choirs.
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> 3P at Redeemer.** Awaiting the Light is a low key meditative service designed for those who find the holidays a challenge or who just need a break from the busy-ness of holiday preparations. There's music, singing, readings and time for reflection.

Ecumenical services such as these provide an excellent opportunity for the Ramsey community to gather at important holiday times to share. All Redeemer people who come enjoy these services, and the choir loves to sing in them. All that's missing is for you to come and join us. We look forward to seeing you at the remaining two services for 2019.

by Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director and Heather Layng, Chair

**Junior Youth Group FIRST FRIDAYS,  
Friday, December 6 from 6-7pm**

GAMES, BIBLE STUDY & SNACKS – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to bring their bibles, friends and a snack to share!

**Reminder - All 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students should bring their Good News Bibles each week to use in Sunday School**



**Youth Group RELAUNCH, Friday,  
December 6 at 7:30pm in Fellowship  
Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders**

Youth group offers a place for teenagers to discover that they are beloved children of God exactly as they are, called by God, to do God’s work on earth by being stewards of creation and serving their neighbor. Freed from achievement and pressure to differentiate, at youth group teenagers can dedicate their time to discover that God has already equipped them to do God’s relational, often spontaneous, and often ordinary work – NOW. Friends are always welcome!

**Confirmation News**

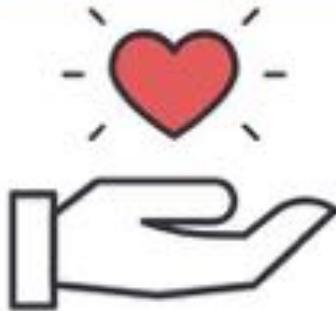
On Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> the students had class on an Overview of the Apostles’ Creed and Article 1. November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> the confirmands attended the New Jersey Synod Youth Retreat in Stillwater, NJ. On December 8<sup>th</sup> the teens will have a class on Article 2 of the Apostles’ Creed. On December 15<sup>th</sup> the confirmands will go to Brighton Gardens of Saddle River to Christmas carol at the senior living facility.

Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders are preparing for Confirmation by attending a pre-confirmation class held during Sunday school time that covers the Bible from creation to Revelation. In November the teens will learned about Law, Judges and Ruth.

**Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center  
Elementary Retreat, February 14, 2020 -  
February 16, 2020**

Kids in grades 3-5 will enjoy a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun. They’ll get a taste of summer camp right when they need it most! Space is limited, so register early. <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/event/elementary-retreat/>

by Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director and Heather Layng, Chair



SAVE THE DATE!

2020 WOW SPRING RETREAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020  
10 AM - 3 PM

# THE HEART: WELLSPRING OF LIFE

*"God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit." Romans 5:5*

Symbol of love and source of life, our hearts beat to the various rhythms of our days. Together we will practice ways to care for this life-giving gift, integrating body, mind, and spirit through movement, prayer, labyrinth, and conversation.

**Presenters:** Kelly Kenny, yoga and fitness instructor  
Laurie Matarazzo and Dale Selover, retreat leaders

THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR & LABYRINTH  
AT PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
177 PRINCETON-HIGHTSTOWN RD.  
PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ 08550



Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1st Sunday of Advent 1 8:00A Svc of Holy Communion 9:15A All Ages Sunday School 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Coffee Hour Mitten Tree Begins	2	3 7:30P Adult Education	4 10:00A Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	5	6 6:00P Jr Youth Group 7:30 Youth Group	7
2nd Sunday of Advent 8 8:00A Svc of Holy Communion 9:15A Sunday School/Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Coffee Hour Giving Tree Due	9	10 10:00A Quilting Ministry 7:30P Council Meeting	11 10:00A Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	12 10:00A Al-Anon Fellowship Hall 2:00P Holiday Apt Spotlight 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	13	14 Afternoon Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
3rd Sunday of Advent 15 ONE SERVICE 9:15A Pageant/Holy Comm. 10:15A Coffee Hour Mitten Tree Ends 3P Advent Lessons & Carols 4:30P Confirmation Caroling 6P Advent Party	16	17	18 10:00A Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	19 Redeemer Reminder Deadline 10:00A Al-Anon Fellowship Hall 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20	21
4th Sunday of Advent 22 8:00A Svc of Holy Communion 9:15A All Ages Sunday School 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Coffee Hour 3:00P Awaiting the Light	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:30P Family Service 7:00P & 9:00P Candlelight Services	25 10:15A Christmas Day Service	26 10:00A Al-Anon Fellowship Hall 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	27	28
1st Sunday of Christmas 29 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Coffee Hour	30	31 New Year's Eve				

## Youth Retreat

Redeemer gives thanks for the NJ Synod Youth Retreat at Fairview Lake Camp! 18 kids from Calvary, Allendale, Zion, Saddle River, and Redeemer attended (12 from Redeemer). The theme was designed to inspire our youth to "Be You, Be Engaged, Be Loved, and Be Sent!"



# Youth Retreat



# Youth Retreat



## Blessings!



**Above: Thank you cards from Girls on the Run.  
Below: Thanksgiving food boxes for St. Stephan's Grace**



*May God Bless You on Your Birthday*

- 12/1 Gus Hess
- 12/2 Carol Carlson, Christopher Milde
- 12/3 Matt Hommez
- 12/4 Chamberlin Certosimo, Elizabeth Gager, Art Ranges, Emma Roden, Johann Vento
- 12/6 Trinity Edwards, Claire Mastrofilipo, Richard Nagel
- 12/7 Avery Ramsaier, Laurie Vogt
- 12/8 Michelle Austin, Steven Mones
- 12/10 Aiden Chernick, Brandon Chernick, Nancy Foelsch, Art Thompson, Lori Wilson
- 12/11 George Hillier
- 12/13 John DeSantis, Robert Fuerst, Gail Stengel
- 12/14 Kristen Grotheer, John Redin, Rob Wortmann
- 12/15 Susan Roller
- 12/16 Liam Hansson, Nathaniel Smith
- 12/17 Dave Ufferfilge
- 12/19 Audrey DePaola, Jessica Papp
- 12/20 John Grotheer
- 12/21 Courtney Falbo
- 12/23 John Creegan, Ian Farquharson
- 12/25 Lois Farber
- 12/26 GiannaMarie Conti, Jocelyn Ufferfilge
- 12/29 Tracey Cotignola, Joan Schaeffer, Sheryl Van Duzer
- 12/30 Erika Wortmann-Marratt



**Wedding Anniversaries**

- 12/1 Lauren and William Niederauer
- 12/7 Carla and Jeff Backhaus
- 12/18 Carol and Jack Forbes
- 12/23 Marge and Bob Hurta
- 12/23 Heather and Peter Layng
- 12/30 Suzanne and Bruce Bassett



**Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 12/1 Michael Crimmins, Alice DeSantis, Kevin Tarzian, Brian Sundermann
- 12/2 Ashton Koch
- 12/8 Jake Royle, Stacey Royle
- 12/11 William Tanis
- 12/12 Vivian Manke
- 12/13 Kali Vozeh
- 12/17 Jack Manke
- 12/28 Matthew Pra, Sydney Smith

Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of January are due Thursday, December, 19.

Please submit to [office@redeemerramsey.org](mailto:office@redeemerramsey.org) or [denise.bogatch@hotmail.com](mailto:denise.bogatch@hotmail.com).