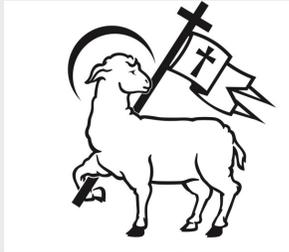


# THE REDEEMER REMINDER

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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.

Dear Redeemer Family, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! The Christmas season comes to an end on Jan 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world. This is symbolized in the story of Jesus' birth by the arrival of the wise men from the East, who saw in the night sky the star that lead them to Bethlehem. The light from that star has always stood for the new light of Christ, shining in the world, lighting the path for the Church to follow.

So what is the path that the Church must follow? The prayer of 'Great Thanksgiving' in the Communion liturgy proclaims that the risen Christ "leads us in the way of everlasting life." What is this "way", and if Christ is lighting our way, where does this way lead us? The answer is that "the way of everlasting life" leads us to more life, abundant life, yes, eternal life! The life of Christ is life so strong, it even defeats death itself.

And how do we get on and stay on this way of life? Worship. Worship is the primary work of the Church, and the most important thing we do together as disciples of Jesus Christ. To help us in this work, I will be preaching a sermon series during the 7 Sundays of the Epiphany Season on the components of our worship: Confession/Absolution, Kyrie/Gloria, Scripture, The Creeds, The Prayers, Holy Communion, and The Sending. Where do they come from? How do they work together? How do I benefit from participating in such worship? I hope that this series will help answer these questions, and that we will find the light of Christ shining through our worship, lighting our way, and filling our hearts with faith, hope and love.

May God bless you and your families in the new year!  
+PL

## Church Council

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by Laura Behrmann, President

As 2019 comes to a close and we look forward to a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation and my fellow council members for all of your support, dedication and hard work throughout the past year. Without the commitment of time and talent from our members, Redeemer could not accomplish all that it does for one another, our church, our community and the various other communities and causes we support. Our accomplishments and our dedicated committees and volunteers are too numerous to list, but please know that your work does not go unnoticed. We will have a far more in depth review of our 2019 accomplishments and 2020 goals at our Annual Congregational meeting and luncheon on Sunday, January 26, 2020 after the worship service. I look forward to seeing you all there!

We will also present our 2020 budget at the Congregational Meeting. Our Stewardship drive was successful, with gains in pledgers and pledges. Yet, expenses are up so we had to make some program cuts. I encourage the congregation to prayerfully consider even a small increase to your pledges this year. For example, if everyone who pledges forgoes a \$3 cup of coffee each week, our income would increase by more than \$12,000!!

I also wish to thank Sharon Hearn (Council VP/Social Ministry Chair), Gwen Pra (Fellowship Chair) and Dina Smith

(Youth Ministry Chair) for their time and service on Council as their service to Redeemer's Council is concluding at the end of January. I also want to thank the congregation for the opportunity to serve you on Council over the last 6 years. It has been a pleasure to serve Redeemer in this way. The Nominating Committee will soon present members to fill these positions. Many thanks to Sharon Hearn, Fred Ufferfilge, Loren Gunther, and Nancy Kaiser for serving on this committee.

Once again, I also ask you to consider how you can give of your time and talent in 2020. It is only through the volunteer efforts of our members that we are able to host so many activities and opportunities to celebrate as a family of God.

## Property and Grounds

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by John P.L. Manke, Chair

Electrical: All timers adjusted for DST.  
Exploring LED lighting for nativity scene.

General Maintenance: Waiting on 3rd sealing and striping quote. Approval given to LEAP to apply education artwork to the upstairs floor. All 2020 budget requests in. Will be setting up a final security meeting asap.

## Music Notes

Thank you to all the performers who made our Advent and Christmas season music-filled!

### Redeemer Adult Choir

Lynn Huggard  
Jan Daehnke  
Joyce Manke  
Sheryl Van Duzer  
Jim Van Duzer  
Gerhart Lempp  
Rose Lempp  
Gus Hess  
Steve Koestner  
Ron Roshong  
Lis Conboy  
Tony Conboy  
Marian Ufferfilge

### Pageant Singers and Instrumentalists

Amber Cusack  
Jeannie Sarreshtedari  
Jen Hommez  
Pastor Michael Linderman  
Ed Stengel

### Outside Performers

*Advent Lessons & Carols*  
St. John's Episcopal Choir Drew Kreismer,  
Music Director

### *Awaiting the Light*

Drew Kreismer  
Ellane Klie

### Christmas Eve

Dorrie Rosen  
Jilana Dellal



Sig Rosen  
Alec Spencer  
Joe Fedor  
April Schoenherr  
Tris Gates-Bonarius  
Kat Gates-Buettner  
Tony Thorne

Happy New Year to all, and more music-

## Evangelism

by Carol Dunbar, Chair

Sunday, Jan 12, we will have a guest presenter from the ELCA's **Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)**. Bryn Koskinen, who recently served in Madagascar from 2018 to 2019, will be giving temple talks at the services, spending time with our Sunday school kids, presenting during Coffee Hour, and giving a full presentation to our Confirmation class over pizza lunch, from noon to 1:30. Please join us Jan 12 to learn about this wonderful program, which we support through Pastor Janelle Neubauer, who works with YAGM volunteers in Rwanda.

## Why use Scheduling Software

Scheduling software, in our case Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP), has three main features.

1. Allows volunteers to submit availability online or through the mobile app.
2. Accommodates volunteers with busy schedules, keeps families serving together and avoids double bookings.
3. Reduces no shows with auto reminders and let volunteers find their own subs online or through the mobile app.

MSP saves hours of time by ditching the post-it notes, Excel spreadsheets, phone calls, and data entry for one streamlined system! Coordinating all the ministries becomes a cinch, and frustrating conflicts that cause stress and volunteer burnout will be a thing of the past. Volunteers take ownership with online access to update away dates and receive automatic email reminders.

For volunteers, online access to your schedule and preferences makes it easier than ever to stay involved at your pace. If you're going on vacation or need to change service times, just enter your dates online. When the unexpected comes up, instead of calling a long list of contacts to find a sub, you can easily submit your request from your smartphone, or fill in for someone who can't make it. And if you have family that serves, MSP makes sure you're not coming to different services on the same weekend. Now you can share your talents and keep control of your time.

Need help? Call, text, or email Stephanie. She is happy to help! **We are especially in need of assistant ministers and ushers. Please update your profile by January 31 as we will be posting the March - May schedule in early February. If you are interested in serving on Ash Wednesday or one of the Holy Week services, please email Stephanie at [FaitHFormation@RedeemerRamsey.org](mailto:FaitHFormation@RedeemerRamsey.org)**

## Social Ministry

by Sharon Hearn, Chair

Thank you to all who donated items for our annual Giving Tree. In total, 90 gifts were donated. Of special note is the awesome job the congregation did on having all gifts wrapped and returned by the due date of December 8th! Thank you Karen Vozeh for all your efforts coordinating this ministry!



Social Ministry envelope collections for the month of January will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

On a personal note, I want to thank the entire congregation for all your support over the past six years. My tenure as Social Ministry Chairperson will end at the annual congregational meeting on January 26th. It has truly been an honor to serve.

## Faith Formation Views

by Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director

Our Christmas pageant worship service could not have happened without all the many volunteers who gave generously of their time and talents. Thank you to all the parents who helped out at the pageant rehearsal and worship service. Thank you to John Manke for being our elevator usher. Thank you to Kirsten Buerkle, Nancy Foelsch, Ginelle Grunfelder, Loren Gunther, Heather Layng, Lee March, Marc Oliver, Ashley Pacenza, Gwen Pra, Jennifer Thompson, Theresa Vandevander, and Karen Wilson who helped shepherd the children during the rehearsal and pageant. Thank you to Michelle Austin for leading the costume effort for the pageant participants. The kids looked wonderful! Thank you to Amber Cusack who worked with our littlest ones, teaching them the songs that they performed so beautifully! Thank you to Ed Stengel for leading and conducting our junior orchestra. It was wonderful that our youth were able to share their talents! Thank you to Diane McGregor for printing and assembling the Christmas Pageant bulletins and for help with all the details.

Thank you to Fran Morton for accompanying all the soloists and ensembles and for providing the worship music. A final huge thank you to Jennifer Hommez, whose vision for a Christmas pageant is one where every child is able to share their gifts with the congregation through spoken word, music, song and service. It is Jenn's passion that makes the Christmas pageant so wonderful for participants and the congregation alike. Thank you!

Overall, we had 54 children and youth participate in the pageant worship service from 27 families. Our orchestra has grown to 21 musicians! At Redeemer, we are truly blessed to have so many kids and teenagers in our midst.

## Christian Education News

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

### **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/>

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

**All-Ages Sunday School Class in Fellowship Hall, Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:15-10:05**

We will have an All-Ages Sunday School classes in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. 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](https://www.smile.amazon.com), or just come to the discussion. We will be discussing Chapter 3 of the book during this third of six sessions.



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

**Confirmation News**

On December 8<sup>th</sup> the teens had a class on Article 2 of the Apostles' Creed. On December 15<sup>th</sup> the confirmands went to Brighton Gardens of Saddle River to Christmas carol at the senior living facility. On Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, the class will volunteer at the Center for Food Action in Mahwah. On January 31<sup>st</sup> - February 1<sup>st</sup>, the class will have a retreat at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center on the Sacraments.

Confirmands will meet at Redeemer at noon on Sunday, Jan 12, to hear a presentation by a visiting YAGM volunteer, on her experience serving in Madagascar.

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 January the students will learn about Kings, Babylonian Captivity and Prophets.

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.

**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/>

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10am**

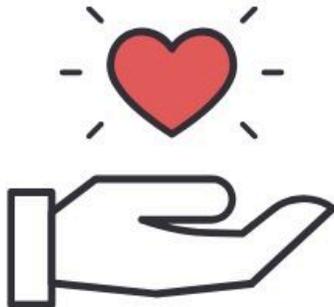
Wednesday morning Bible study meets at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Education - Monday, January 27 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 fourth session is on "Gospels: Unexpected Good News."



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

# January

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
2nd Sunday of Christmas 5 8:00A Svc of Holy Communion 9:15A Sunday School 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Coffee Hour	6	7 10:00A Quilting Ministry	8 10:00A Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	9 10:00A Al- Anon Fellowship Hall 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	10	11 9A Nativity Break down
Baptism of our Lord 12 8:00A Svc of Holy Communion 9:15A Sunday School/Raise Them Up 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Coffee Hour 12P Confirmation YAGM lunch program	13	14 7:30P Council Meeting	15 10:00A Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	16 Redeemer Reminder Deadline 10:00A Al- Anon Fellowship Hall 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	17	18
2nd Sunday of Epiphany 19 8:00A Svc of Holy Communion 9:15A All Ages Sunday School 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Coffee Hour	20	21 10:00A Quilting Ministry	22 10:00A Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	23 10:00A Al- Anon Fellowship Hall 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	24	25
3rd Sunday of Epiphany 26 NO 8A service 9:15A Sunday School 10:15A Svc of Holy Communion 11:15A Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon	27 7:30P Adult Ed	28	29 10:00A Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	30 10:00A Al- Anon Fellowship Hall 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	31 Confirmat. Cross Roads Retreat	



# ST. STEPHAN'S GRACE COMMUNITY

Rev. Moacir Weirich

7 Wilson Ave., Newark, NJ 07105

(973) 465 2259 – pastormoacir@optimum.net

Facebook: St. Stephen's Grace Community - ELCA



December 18, 2019

**Dear friends and partners in ministry,**

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet  
of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Isaiah 52:7)*



Here we are again to celebrate Emanuel, God with us, who comes to show us the way. Who leads our feet through streets and parks, and valleys and mountains. Who fills our heart and mouth with words of peace and hope.



Another great year of ministry at St. Stephan's Grace Community is coming to an end. We celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as 145 years of service at the corner of Wilson Ave. and Ferry St.. God called us to serve and we responded as boldly as we were able to. From Spirit filled worship

to serving the community God has been good to us. City town hall meetings, day laborers breakfast and feeding ministry, clothing exchange, immigration advocacy work, Newark water lead crisis campaign, Community Garden, kids' programs, and free tutoring are just a few of the many ways we have served our neighbors. We fed the hungry, gave water to the thirsty and announced the good news to the poor. We thank God and all the faithful partners who help to support us.



Please visit our Facebook page, **St. Stephan's Grace Community – ELCA**, for pictures and stories of ministry.



We could not have done it without you. Please receive our heartfelt thanks for all your prayers and support over this past year. We wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a hope filled Happy New Year.

The Rev. Moacir Weirich  
St. Stephen's Grace Community Church

## Blessings



Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Thank you for gifting us your Mitten Tree items as part of our Giving Tree/Adopt a Family event. Our families are so grateful for your help in making their holiday special.

May 2020 be a happy and healthy year for you and your families.

Diane Sundermann  
Ramsey Responds

Dear Pastor Linderman,

Your service "Awaiting the Light" (Dec 22) was lovely and it "worked" on me. I was feeling my sadness and just allowing me to be me without conforming to outward norms. It was a long time coming to be where I was. My entire life -75 years. The music and the readings, candles and my almost favorite hymn, "Blessed Assurance" has special memories. And POWERS! My balance was on its way back mainly because you and others made efforts to include needs of all kinds to be attended to. Your church is lovely and it feels "solid"--rooted. I was welcomed--what a gift. Heart felt thanks! -J "Cookie"

*May God Bless You on Your Birthday*

- 1/1 Georgianna Gould, Pat Pacenza
- 1/4 Ryan Brazel, Theresa Vandevander
- 1/5 Janet Brazel, Chelsey Hudson
- 1/6 Samantha Massaro, Ed Stengel
- 1/7 Ava Mastrofilipo
- 1/8 Alexa Austin, Morgan Coonrad, Lois Spreen
  
- 1/9 Mira Linderman-Vento
- 1/10 Logan Coonrad, Richard Roller
- 1/11 Tommy Austin, Diana Farquharson
- 1/13 Kristen Kunz
- 1/14 Tom Knichel, Ryan Layng
- 1/15 Sean Martel
- 1/16 Christiana Mones, Guy Vogt
- 1/17 Delores Godwin, Andrew Grunfelder
- 1/18 Carol Forbes
- 1/19 Macey Grosse, Walt Kaiser
- 1/20 Dave Daehnke, Jaclyn O'Keefe
- 1/21 Megan Hanys, Ariel McKeown, Alex Shields, Bob Sundermann
  
- 1/24 Casey Conner, Ted Ufferfilge
- 1/26 Noah Eide, Trisha Manke
- 1/27 Jack Farquharson
- 1/28 Jim Van Duzer, Charlotte Vierling
- 1/30 Dot Holmes



**Wedding Anniversaries**

- 1/2 Christine and Jason Vonderhaar
- 1/18 Beth and Peter Austin
- 1/24 Samantha and Robert Wortmann, Jr.



**Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 1/5 Oliver Finlayson
- 1/8 Natalie Gurney, Gail Stengel
- 1/12 Aaron March
- 1/19 Eden Hudson
- 1/21 Emily Sheilds
- 1/22 Braeleigh Peterson
- 1/24 Aiden and Brandon Chernick
- 1/28 Christian Doherty

Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of February are due Thursday, January, 16

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