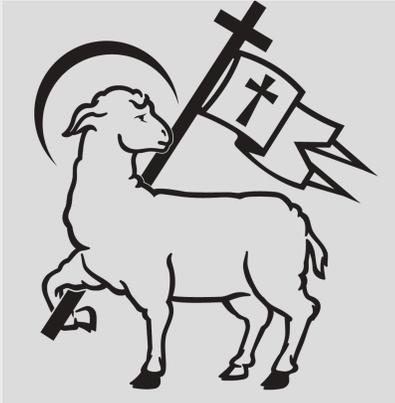


# THE REDEEMER REMINDER

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## Pastor's Message

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, Ph. D.

*"When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:17-19)*

Dear friends of Redeemer,

One of the unique blessings of this past Christmas holiday season was the way in which the trials, challenges and burdens of 2020 hovered over our reading of the birth narratives in Luke and Matthew, and brought new insights to the fore. We all have struggled with many things in 2020, some of us more than others. There was much upheaval, uncertainty, social restriction, anxiety, loss and grief. Even with a vaccine on the horizon, there remain many questions about how life will permanently change for us going into 2021.

With all that in the background, I came to the retelling of the birth of Christ with a new focus on the uncertainty of those gathered around the manger. How uncertain, even anxious, were they as they prepared for the birth of Jesus? What hopes and dreams had been upended by Mary's early pregnancy, and what excitement after the angels' proclamation? What questions opened up for the shepherds? After that, how does one return to the humdrum of everyday life?

This year, I've marveled at how similar our experience is to theirs. Luke 2:19 stands out to me in the midst of this uncertainty: "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." For me, this is the key to all we have been through and all we may go through yet in 2021. Like Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, we have the truth of Christ's comforting presence with us, now, and it will remain with us come what may. Let us ponder the grace and promise of Christ's presence, beating like a tiny heart in the midst of both the upheaval and the humdrum.

May this truth continue to bless us all in the new year.

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by Barbara Nemchek-Mones

This past year we have so much to be thankful for, especially each other. While the church may be a physical building with a roof and walls, its true heart and soul is Christ in you and me. Jesus said: "For where two or three of you gather in my name, there I am in the midst of them." Of course, we had to take these words a step further by adapting to worshipping together virtually. Kudos to our staff and Fred Conti and John Manke for helping us livestream our Sunday services until a permanent streaming system was purchased and installed. All these challenges made our outdoor in-person gatherings that much more meaningful.

I am thankful for Redeemer's generous members. You raised almost \$30,000 for a COVID-19 Fund to support not only members of our church who are in need, but also aid the community at-large! Evangelism and Social Ministry Committees continued our support of St. Stephan's Grace in Newark with Shop-Rite gift cards and a virtual Christmas Tree of Giving. May the new year bring us more of this blessed fellowship and service in Christ, and may God bless you all in 2021.



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON ZOOM**  
Sunday, January 31, Time TBA  
Stay tuned for more information!

**Help spread the holiday cheer**  
Donate items from AmazonSmile Charity Lists



## Stewardship

by Judith Schaefer

Redeemer is a generous group of people! I'd like to thank all of you who participated in our 2021 Stewardship campaign, "Building a Culture of Generosity". 2020 was a difficult year with many different life pathways, but the people of Redeemer remained faithful. We lost a few pledging families through moves, a few who are experiencing difficult times, and, sadly, some among us have passed on. Nevertheless, we have communicated with social media as our new path to work, visit, learn, and attend church services. We all want to be able to visit with one another and I pray we will all continue to adapt to the "New Normal" as we live with the introduction of the COVID vaccine and continue our Health Safety measures.

Our campaign numbers are as follows: 79 members shared an intent to give \$188,000 in 2021. About 40% of those intents increased their intent over 2020. The Church Council challenge was to find 10 new family units. We tried diligently, but we are very thankful to have 8 new pledgers for 2021! Thank you so much!

God Bless you all in the New Year!

## Thank You!

by Stephanie Doyle and Pastor Linderman

Dear Redeemer Family,  
My family and I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and thanks for the unexpected gift from the congregation this Christmas. While 2020 has presented some challenges, working with the children and teenagers at Redeemer is a constant source of joy for me. I look forward to continuing to accompany our young people in their faith formation journey and providing opportunities for growth for our adults as well. Please accept my sincere thanks for the generous gift.  
Peace and blessings,  
Stephanie

Dear Redeemer family, on behalf of me and my family, thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift! You have been a blessing to my family in so many ways during a very difficult year. May God bless you all in the New Year!  
Yours in Christ's service, Pastor Linderman



## Young Adult and Youth News

by Kirsten Buerkle, Youth Ministry Chair and Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director

### Young Adult Small Group: January 2021

Are you looking to meet new people and explore your faith in the new year? In place of a one weekend retreat, this year Cross Roads is offering a weekly small group devotional experience for the month of January. All young adults, ages 18 to 30ish, are invited to participate. (Current high school students are not eligible for this program, even if 18 years old.) Meet via Zoom on Thursdays from 7 - 8 pm (Eastern time), beginning on Thursday, January 7. These gatherings will be a time for reflection, conversation, and laughter at the beginning of 2021. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your faith journey. More information will be sent out ahead of the first gathering. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact Program Director Kathryn Schaefer at [kathrvm@crossroadsretreat.com](mailto:kathrvm@crossroadsretreat.com).

### Youth Gathering

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022. Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>

### Young Adults in Global Mission

Applications for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 program year. Young adults ages 21 to 29 can apply for YAGM by the deadline of Jan. 15, 2021. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain a better understanding of faith, identity, career and understanding of God's work in the world. Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/yagm>



## Young Adult and Youth News

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by Kirsten Buerkle, Youth Ministry Chair and Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director



### **2021 Youth Retreats | EXPLORE!**

EXPLORE! with Cross Roads this winter at our virtual youth retreats. Over the course of a few hours, kids and youth leaders will EXPLORE the ways God is present in our world and in our lives. We will play games, read stories from the Bible, get moving, worship together, and have fun! There are three EXPLORE! retreat dates and times for different age groups:

Grades K - 2: Saturday, February 13 from 10 am - 12 pm

Grades 3 - 5: Saturday, February 13 from 1 - 3 pm

Grades 6 - 8: Saturday, March 13 from 10 am - 12 pm

There is a suggested registration fee of \$15 for these retreats. Youth groups can register as a group or families can register their children individually.

## Christian Education News

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

### Sunday School Schedule for January:

#### Every Sunday in January

9am Toddler - 2nd Grade on Zoom

9:30am 3rd - 6th Grade on Zoom

11:30am 7th Grade Pre-Confirmation on Zoom



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



**Bible Study Wednesdays at 10am** socially distanced in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

**Adult Education continues Monday, January 26th at 7:30pm on Zoom**

For the 2020-2021 year, we will be using the seven-part series entitled "Dialogues On: Race." Each Dialogues On: Race lesson includes perspectives from thought leaders challenging the legacy of racism within the American church. January's session will be on "American Amnesia: Christianity and the Erasing of Native American Stories."

#### Confirmation News

On December 6th, Pastor Linderman taught a class on Loving Your Neighbor. On December 13th, the teens "attended" worship with their Faith Mentors and then "met" to discuss Advent and Christmas. On December 20th, the confirmands learned about Forgiveness. In January, the students will learn about Lutheran Worship Practices and The Cross. They will also have their 3rd Faith Mentor Sunday of the year on January 31st.

Our 7th graders are preparing for Confirmation by attending a pre-confirmation class held Sunday mornings that covers the Bible from creation to Revelation. In December, the students learned about Kings, Babylonian Captivity, and Prophets. In January they will finish the Old Testament learning about Psalms, Wisdom, Job, Esther, and the Rise of Rome.

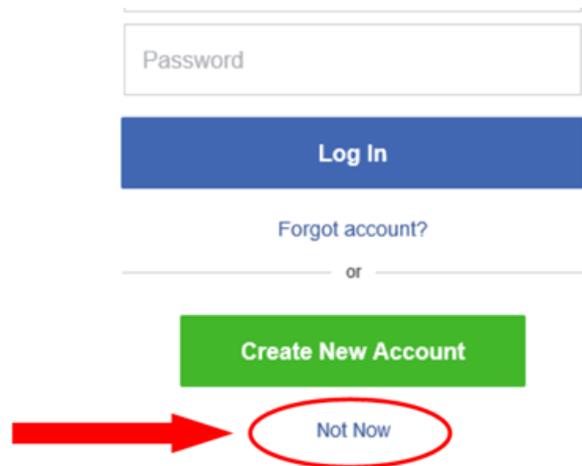
## Watch on Facebook...WITHOUT Facebook!

Because of the Covid19 situation, we are live streaming our worship services to you! Our Sunday and Holy Week Worship Livestream will be on Facebook, but you can watch **even if you do not have a Facebook account!**

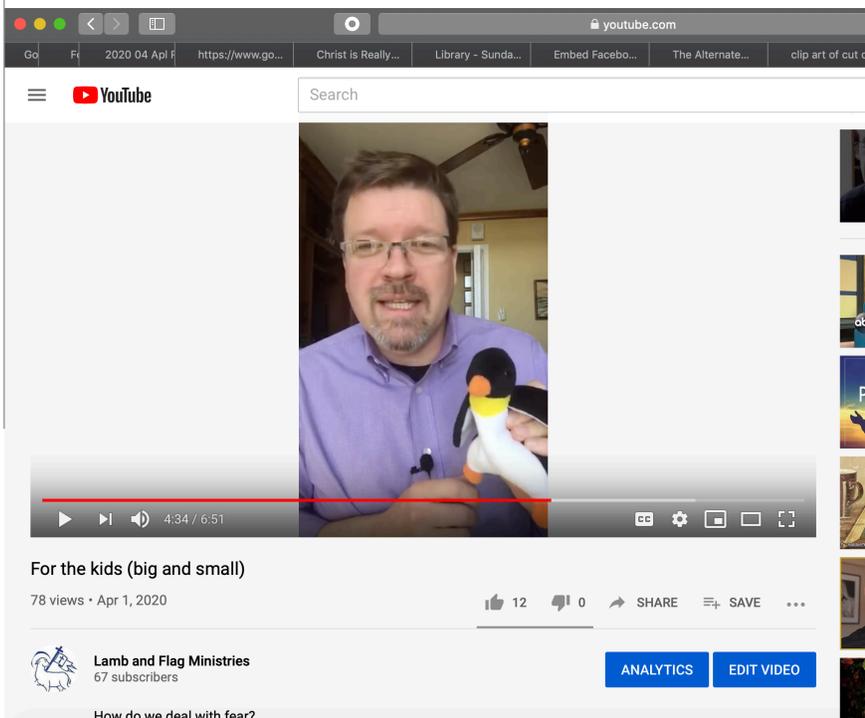
Here is a link to Redeemer's page. Type this into your browser address bar: <https://www.facebook.com/redeemerramsey/>

Within a few seconds of opening the page, you will see the Facebook Login screen: Click on "Not Now" (see image to the right).

This allows you to view the video of the worship service without needing a Facebook account. So please join us!



## Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!



Check out our YouTube Channel: **"Lamb and Flag Ministries"**!

Just put the title of our channel into a Google search bar, or go to YouTube and enter the title in the Search bar.

You will find weekly video messages by Pastor Linderman and recordings of our past worship services on our channel.

Don't forget to subscribe to the channel by clicking the "Subscribe" button!

## Support Redeemer, Give Online

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by Judith Schaefer, Stewardship Committee

We're excited to share that we've launched online giving at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer through "Tithe.ly", a safe and secure giving platform that allows you to give one-time or recurring gifts! You can get started by using one of the following options:

### **OPTION A.** The Tithe.ly Giving App:

Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app select your church and follow the same steps as above.

- Since this is your first time giving with [Tithe.ly](#) you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts.
- The first time you will also need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info.
- Once your account has been created you won't need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give!
- A reminder you have the ability to set up your gift as recurring.

### **OPTION B.** Redeemer Website Giving:

Go to [www.RedemerRamsey.org](http://www.RedemerRamsey.org) and go to the "Give" menu to give through the church website. It's a safe and easy way to give any time.

### **OPTION C.** The Tithe.ly Website

Set up giving on the Tithe.ly website to give any time using your computer's internet connection. All transactions are safe and secure. Go to Tithe.ly to sign up at [get.tithe.ly](http://get.tithe.ly).

- When the Tithe.ly screen opens, click on SIGN UP FREE >
- Then select GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH
- Then select the GIVE ONLINE button
- Click the Create Account button and complete the information requested You need to this only the first time. You will just need to sign in after completing this screen.
- Follow the screen instructions to make your contribution.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me back and we'd be happy to assist you further! Go to the Tithe.ly website for articles that you may find useful.

Thank you for your generosity and partnering with us to carry out Christ's mission in these difficult and challenging times.

See you on Sunday (online)! - Judith



Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Holy Name of Jesus New Year's Day	2
<b>2nd Sunday after Christmas Day</b> 3 NO Sunday school today 10:15A Worship Service 11:15A Zoom Fellowship / Coffee Hour	4 10A Redeemer Quilters 1:30P Redeemer Quilters	5	6 Epiphany of our Lord 10A Bible Study in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom 7:30P Epiphany Service on Facebook Live	7	8	9
<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> 10 9:00A Toddler - 2nd grade SS on Zoom 9:30A 3rd - 6th grade SS on Zoom 10:15A Worship Service 11:15A Zoom Fellowship / Coffee Hour 11:30A 7th grade pre-confirmation Zoom 4:30P 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation	11	12 7:30P Council Meeting on Zoom	13 10A Bible Study in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom	14	15	16
<b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 17 9:00A Toddler - 2nd grade SS on Zoom 9:30A 3rd - 6th grade SS on Zoom 10:15A Worship Service 11:15A Zoom Fellowship / Coffee Hour 11:30A 7th grade pre-confirmation Zoom	18 MLK Jr Day 10A Redeemer Quilters 1:30P Redeemer Quilters	19	20 10A Bible Study in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom	21  RR articles due	22	23
<b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 24 9:00A Toddler - 2nd grade SS on Zoom 9:30A 3rd - 6th grade SS on Zoom 10:15A Worship Service 11:15A Zoom Fellowship / Coffee Hour 11:30A 7th grade pre-confirmation Zoom 4:30P 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation	25  Adult Ed TBA	26	27 10A Bible Study in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom	28	29	30
<b>4th Sunday after Epiphany</b> 31 Confirmation Faith Mentor Sunday 9:00A Toddler - 2nd grade SS on Zoom 9:30A 3rd - 6th grade SS on Zoom 10:15A Worship Service 11:15A Zoom Fellowship / Coffee Hour 11:30A 7th grade pre-confirmation on Zoom TBA ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING						

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

Join us for a virtual Fellowship / Coffee Hour every Sunday following 10:15am Worship.

To join this Zoom Meeting, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/345715195?pwd=NVFrbTZTUU96SWRnbUgvRWZEM2tUZz09>

Meeting ID: 345 715 195, Password: 147185

*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 Frankie Hudson, 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, Robby Rutigliano, Guy Vogt
- 1/17 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
- 1/29 Cameron Palumbo



**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 Braelleigh Peterson
- 1/24 Aiden and Brandon Chernick
- 1/28 Christian Doherty

Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of February are due Thursday, January 21

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