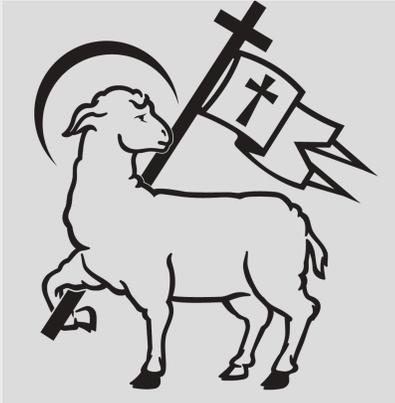


THE REDEEMER REMINDER

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Pastor's Message

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, Ph. D.

I'm really feeling done with it all right now. It must be the combination of the pandemic and all this snow and ice that we've had. I'm feeling done with winter, done with snow, done with Covid, done with social distancing, done with masks. I want to be done. I want to move on.

And right when I'm getting clearer in my mind about my feelings, Lent comes and asks me to sit for a while longer with my feelings. It seems that just when I think I've made up my mind about something, God comes and says, "Not so fast Michael; I've got more work to do with you."

And so Lent presents an opportunity to me that I would be wise to take advantage of. Lent has a particular purchase in the life of Christians in the Northern Hemisphere. In these regions of the world, the days of Winter grow shorter, and then longer as the springtime approaches. The word Lent comes from the Old English word "lenchten", or "lengthen". So "Lent" literally refers to the spring season that is approaching. That experience of the lengthening of daytime, of light, of warmth, and of growth, also points out our longing as well. We are longing for new growth, new warmth, new light. We wait for these things literally, but they are also metaphors for our spiritual lives. While our bodies are longing for literal warmth and light, so our souls are longing spiritually for warmth and light. We are done with the shadows and chill of our spiritual winter. We are ready for the light and warmth of Easter!

But we can't just skip Lent and go straight to Easter. The season gives us an opportunity to learn from our longing. We are given the chance to learn about our true desires, our true needs, and our true hunger for God's grace, and for Jesus' presence. So patience is our calling right now. This winter of trials and shadows will pass. God's warmth and light are approaching. We wait in faith, hope, and love. +PL

From our Council President

by Barbara Nemchek

Dear Members of Redeemer,

I want to fill you in on the steps that the Executive Committee and the Church Council have taken since the Congregational Meeting on January 31st. The Endowment Fund Bylaws were reviewed by me, the current Endowment Committee Chair John Karch, former Church Council Presidents, and members of the congregation who were involved with the drafting and adopting of the bylaws. We all agreed that the wording of the Endowment Fund Bylaws is satisfactory in the sense that it gives the Church Council and the Endowment Committee adequate leeway to use the surplus, when available, as we see fit.

On February 3rd, I spoke with members of the Mutual Ministry Committee to review the two motions that were passed at the Congregational Meeting:

1. Motion and Second by George Westcott/Walt Kaulfers: To evaluate the total compensation for all Redeemer staff positions, including the Director of Music, the Faith Formation Director, and current Sexton, and then secondly to determine proper use of eligible Endowment funds to financially support these positions going forward.
2. Motion and Second by Sharon Vogel/Walt Kaulfers: To address concerns raised regarding all Redeemer staff positions, the Director of Music, and the Faith Formation Director of feeling unappreciated in their current roles and ask that these concerns be referred directly to Mutual Ministry for further discussion and recommendations.

The Church Council and Mutual Ministry meet on February 6th to discuss a vacancy on Mutual Ministry, and to schedule staff review meetings. The Council Executive Committee met on February 4th to review the wording of the Endowment Fund Bylaws and address the Faith Formation Director's salary concerns, which include reviewing the job description, reviewing the employment contract, Endowment Fund surplus availability, and amending the budget to have a more significant deficit. We met again with Pastor on February 8th to further refine the Church Council's next steps. The Church Council had its regularly scheduled meeting on February 9th. During this meeting we agreed that Pastor, representatives from the Church council and the Mutual Ministry Chair would arrange a meeting with the Faith Formation Director to review the interaction of our various roles and immediate next steps.

To further this discussion, Mutual Ministry and the Church Council had a joint meeting on February 11th. We agreed to further review the Faith Formation Director position's hours and responsibilities, looking to realign these with the position's compensation and benefits. A meeting was held on February 17th with the Faith Formation Director to discuss our collective next steps, including timekeeping of hours worked and a regular schedule of meetings with Mutual Ministry beginning on February 22nd.

In the meantime, the Church Council is establishing two Ad Hoc Committees. One committee will prepare a presentation to the congregation about the Endowment Fund. The other committee will research comparable positions, salaries, and benefits in response to the motion made at the January 31st Congregational meeting.

I want to assure the congregation that both the Church Council and the Mutual Ministry Committee have taken and continue to take the concerns voiced at the January 31st congregational meeting seriously. Both groups have spent numerous hours discussing, debating, and praying over the issues of total compensation for the church's staff for the past four years. We truly strive to make the "right" decisions, balancing needs and wants with fiscal responsibility. The congregation of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer has been blessed with many assets, the most important of which are you, its members. We recognize that without the congregation, the church is nothing but a physical structure. I thank you for your patience and support as we work through effectively addressing and balancing these concerns.

In Christ's Peace, Barbara

Faith Formation Views

by Stephanie Doyle, Faith Formation Director

The ELCA has an organization for those that work in children, youth and family ministry called "The Network." Its mission is to strengthen and empower adult children, youth, and family ministry leaders in service to Christ through renewal, education, and connection. For the last 25 years, the Network has put together a national conference called "The Extravaganza." Extravaganza 2021 was February 4-6 and, due to the Pandemic, since it was virtual, I was able to attend. The Theme was "Holding Loosely." Looking to the Bible stories of Noah, Jonah, Paul, we were reminded the scriptures are full of stories of God's people holding loosely to their plans and learning to trust in the grace and the mission of God. Through worship, large group sessions, workshops, and music, we explored God's call to hold loosely to our own plans, and our need to control, and to trust in the one who comes to create, to redeem, and to sustain. God's call for those who live and do ministry to "Hold Loosely" and trust is important in a time of pandemic, of racial injustice and unrest, and of social division and political turmoil.

The three days centered around five questions:

How do those who do this ministry help those we work with navigate the grief of losing "normal?" How do those who do this ministry navigate that same grief for ourselves?

How do those who do this ministry care for ourselves in the midst of accompanying others in their pain?

How do those who do this ministry navigate change?

What should those who do this ministry do next?

How do those who do this ministry find hope in the midst of chaos?

Much of the time was spent in renewal and discussion of self-care. I attended a workshop on preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering. I also attended a workshop led by Professor Jeremy Paul Meyers from Augsburg University, author of the book: *Liberating Youth from Adolescence*. He is part of the Riverside Innovation Hub at Augsburg University, helping congregations uncover their core theological convictions and how to use these convictions to think theologically about ministry and creative change in a shifting context.

Over 1700 people who work or volunteer in children, youth, and family ministry attended. For me, it was a very positive, renewing experience to be reminded to place our trust in God's grace, which provides guidance and direction during these hard days, and that this grace is a gift that we discover when we hold loosely.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." - Ephesians 2:8

Young Adult and Youth News

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



**Girl Scout Sunday,
March 7
during 10:15am Worship**

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>



Stewardship

by Judith Schaefer

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and charity. We invite you to join us in considering the blessings God gives us, and how God has been good to us even in the face of so many challenges of life these days. Please use your envelopes for Lent and Holy Week as you consider your generosity in response to God's lavish grace in Jesus Christ!



Young Adult and Youth News

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 retreat. 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!

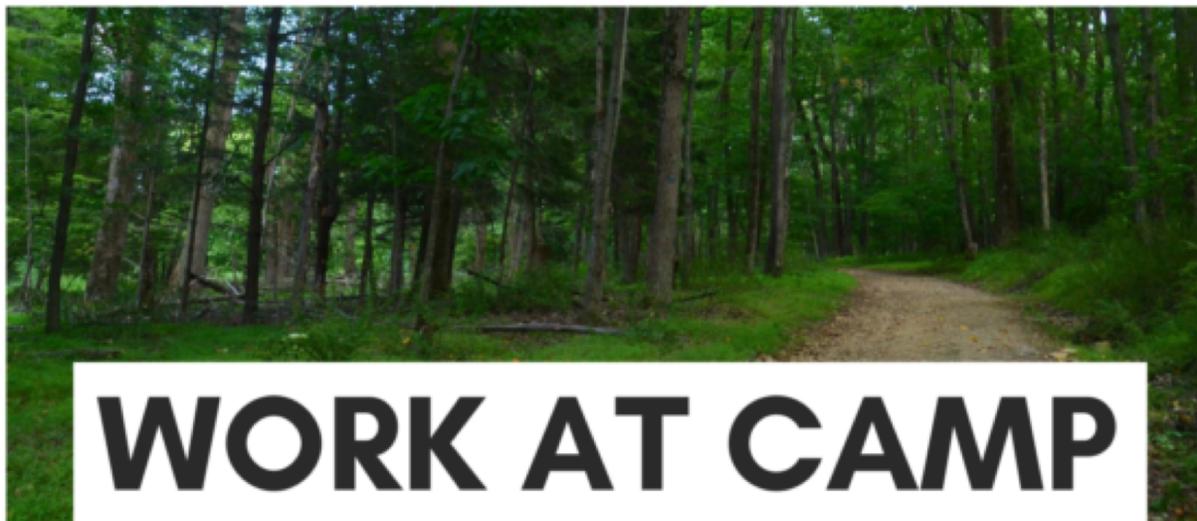
Grades 6 - 8: Saturday, March 13 from 10 am - 12 pm

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

Young Adult and Youth News

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

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



WORK AT CAMP

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS SUMMER AT CROSS ROADS

The Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center staff is a vibrant, close-knit community that intentionally creates a nurturing place and time apart. Join us for a life-changing summer experience in 2021!



BE A LEADER

Cultivate leadership skills such as creativity and problem-solving.



FORM RELATIONSHIPS

Become a role model for campers and create life-long friendships with other staff members.



GROW IN FAITH

Connect with God through worship, prayer, Bible study, & living in Christian community.

Summer employment runs from mid-June through August 2021.

Please note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all dates and employment opportunities are subject to change.

APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/EMPLOYMENT

Young Adult and Youth News

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

A promotional graphic for a summer camp. The background is a photograph of a group of people walking across a grassy field towards a wooden cabin. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font. The main headline is 'SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN'. Below it is the text 'We are excited to see you at Cross Roads this summer!'. At the bottom is the website address 'www.crossroadsretreat.com'. The entire graphic is framed by a thick yellow border.

**SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION
IS OPEN**

We are excited to see you at
Cross Roads this summer!

www.crossroadsretreat.com



**SUMMER CAMP 2021
VIRTUAL Q&A
SESSIONS**

WITH CROSS ROADS STAFF

FEB 16 AT 7PM

FEB 20 AT 10 AM

MARCH 16 AT 7 PM

MARCH 20 AT 10 AM

Christian Education News

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

Sunday School Schedule for February:

Every Sunday in March

Every Sunday in March

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.

First Holy Communion for 4th Graders



4th Graders will be meeting with Pastor Linderman three Thursday nights at 7pm on Zoom to prepare for their First Holy Communion: March 4, March 11, and March 18.

They will receive their First Holy Communion during Worship on Sunday, March 21 at 10:15am.

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

Adult Education continues Monday, March 22nd 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. March's session will be on "Two Christianities: American Religion in Black and White."

Confirmation News

On February 7th, Stephanie taught a class on Doubt. On February 21st, Pastor Paul Miller taught a class on the devil. On March 14th the teens will "attend" worship with their Faith Mentors. In March, the confirmands will learn about Sinner & Saint and Freedom of a Christian.

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 February they finished up the Old Testament with Job, Esther, and the Rise of Rome. In March they will learn about Maps, The New Testament, Jesus, and Matthew.

Taizé - Music of Unity and Peace

This year for music at Lenten Wednesday evening services we're doing something different. The music we've chosen is three chants from Taizé. We have sung Taizé music before in Sunday services so this is not completely new to us. Taizé music at its base is repetitive chants sung by the entire congregation.

Brother Roger (1915-2005) founded Taizé as a small monastic order in Taizé, France shortly after the end of WW II. He had a particular goal in mind for music. He wanted a music that was at its core simple enough that gatherings of people from different religious traditions could sing it together easily. He wanted it to be essentially prayer in song. He chose as his musical partner in the creation of Taizé music Jacques Berthier (1923-1994). Berthier's parents were both accomplished musicians and he received a thorough professional musical education from them and from the Ecole Cesar Franck in Paris where he studied composition and organ. From 1961 until his death he was organist of St. Ignace in Paris. He and Brother Roger created a unique body of music that is at once modern and accessible and grounded in Gregorian chant and early Christian music.

Berthier created a base simple chant for the congregation as a whole to sing. A few times through and anyone can learn the words and music. The repetitions underlie instrumental and vocal solos layered in above to make an extended anthem performed by everyone. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=taize+music will take you to a YouTube album of music as it is performed at a Taizé service. While you are on that site, have a look for the chants we are using in our Wednesday Lenten services. Over the years Taizé has become a pilgrimage site and a major global movement of youth and young adults. The "hymnal" of songs used in services there is printed in seven languages.

Join us on Wednesday evenings in Lent and sing along with these lovely timeless prayers in song.

Fran Music Director, Redeemer Lutheran music@redeemerramsey.org

Mobile: 201-315-7384

Wednesday Services of Reflection and Healing for Lent

7:30 PM every Wednesday in Lent LIVESTREAM ONLY on Facebook and YouTube

Scripture readings, prayers, music and meditation. Join us for a prayerful experience during our Lenten journey!

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 1st Day of Women's History Month 10A Redeemer Quilters 1:30P Redeemer Quilters	2	3 10A Bible Study 7:30P Lenten Livestream Service	4 7P 1st Holy Communion Class	5	6
	3rd Sunday in Lent 7 Girl Scout 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 Zoom 4:30P 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation	8	9 7:30P Council Meeting on Zoom	10 10A Bible Study 7:30P Lenten Livestream Service	11 7P 1st Holy Communion Class	12
4th Sunday in Lent 14 Daylight Savings Time starts 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 Zoom	15 10:00A Redeemer Quilters 1:30P Redeemer Quilters	16	17 St Patrick's Day 10A Bible Study 7:30P Lenten Livestream Service	18 7P 1st Holy Communion Class RR art due	19	20
5th Sunday in Lent 21 First Holy Communion for 4th Graders 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	22 7:30P Adult Education	23	24 10A Bible Study 7:30P Lenten Livestream Service	25 Annunci ation of the Lord	26	27
Liturgy of the Palms/Passion 28 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	29	30	31 Maundy Thursday Services TBA	1 Good Friday Services TBA		

****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

- 3/1 Mike McKeown
- 3/3 Braeleigh Peterson
- 3/4 Lynsey Bradley
- 3/8 Carol Dunbar, Meredith Dykstra, Molly Miller, Jakob Oliver, Sean Royle
- 3/9 Fred Damiano, Annabella Dendy
- 3/10 Laura Chernick
- 3/11 Dianne Knichel, Chad Thompson
- 3/12 Ashley Knichel
- 3/13 Margaret Lee
- 3/14 Murphy Makely
- 3/16 Adler Buerkle
- 3/17 Philip Godwin
- 3/19 Robert Dykstra, Bruce Whitaker
- 3/20 Tina Eide
- 3/23 Jennifer Hommez
- 3/25 Nate Buettner, Stephanie Doyle
- 3/26 Donald Rigg
- 3/28 Diane Sundermann
- 3/30 Janette Daehnke



Wedding Anniversaries

- 3/17 Mary and Robert Wortmann
- 3/21 Kathryn and John Redin
- 3/27 Tanya and Michael Shields



Baptismal Anniversaries

- 3/1 Connor Behrmann
- 3/7 Kristen Kunz
- 3/13 Chloe Austin, Elizabeth Niederauer
- 3/14 Ariel McKeown, Chris Wilson
- 3/21 Ian McKeown
- 3/25 Jessica Cozine Vaught
- 3/28 Zachary Pacenza
- 3/30 Ryan Layng, Josephine Schultz, Ted Ufferfilge
- 3/31 Colette Mulhall, Lily Mulhall

Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of April are due Thursday, March 18

Please submit to office@redeemerramsey.org or denise.bogatch@hotmail.com.