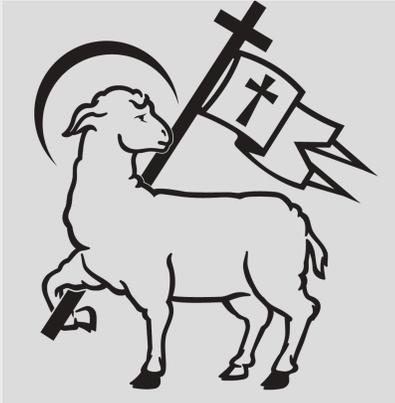


THE REDEEMER REMINDER

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Pastor's Message

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, Ph. D.

Happy Easter to you all! Spring is here, and new life is peaking through all around us. On the pandemic front, things are looking more positive. Governor Murphy recently increased allowance for up to 50% of room capacity for indoor gatherings. Ramsey schools are moving to Phase 3, which means combining the divided cohorts of students to full capacity and having in-person instruction 5 days a week instead of a staggered schedule. If you have been fully vaccinated, you are feeling a bit more comfortable in participating in various activities.

As for our practice right now, the Redeemer council will assess our limit of 30 people maximum indoors at our May council meeting. We have sought a balance between gathering for in-person worship and the goal of keeping everyone safe from exposure to the virus. We have started to invite more members to volunteer at our services. This is your chance to try something new and serve the congregation in the process. Worship assistants read the lessons and parts of the service and assist with communion. Altar Guild volunteers set up and re-set the altar. Ushers are on hand to assist anyone in need (see page 3 for more details). I invite you to try it out if you haven't before!

In the meantime, the council will meet in "retreat" in the coming weeks to reengage with our Core Values Project. We had planned to do this last year before the shutdown changed our lives and focused our attention on adjusting to the challenges of the pandemic. Our Core Values will be important for goal setting, so that we look forward to entering the fall of 2021 with some new initiatives, as well as renewed focus on what we already do well. Please pray with the council this month for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and renewed faith in the presence of our risen Lord, so that we may be a community of God's grace for the sake of the world around us.

+PL

From our Council President...

by Barbara Nemchek

Dear Members of Redeemer,

Easter Greetings to all of you! Holy Week was especially meaningful for me this year. We were able to open the sanctuary to more worshippers. The services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday pulled the suffering, crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior together in a way that gave me continued hope. Jesus is the light in the midst of any dark tunnel we may find ourselves in. This faith can carry us through any issues we face - and all we do is trust!

As an update on the second motion made by the Congregation at the January 28th meeting, Mutual Ministry has conducted several staff review meetings, and an Ad Hoc committee has been formed to research staff compensation and benefits. If you are interested in participating on this Ad Hoc Committee, please contact me. We asked the Faith Formation Director to provide a breakdown of hours worked against tasks performed for a two-week period, with an eye to realign these with the position's compensation and benefits. Some actions that have come from this realignment include re-establishing the roles of the Altar Guild and Volunteer Ministry during Sunday church services.

The Church Council has been meeting with a newly established not-for-profit, Common

Food for Common Good (CFCG). This organization of volunteers has approached Redeemer about building and maintaining a small garden plot, about 20' x 30'. This garden would be located to the east of the Education Building. Soil borings have been taken to analyze the quality of the soil for growing vegetables. We have contacted our insurance carrier, Church Mutual, to determine the policy limits that CFCG would have to provide. LEAP has also been informed about the garden since it will be near the playground. One of the CFCG volunteers is also a teacher at LEAP, which provides an opportunity for the LEAP students to participate in some of the gardening activities. A fencing permit is being prepared to be submitted to the Borough of Ramsey. A formal agreement contract will be executed between Redeemer and CFCG shortly. I hope you all agree that this garden is a win-win for Redeemer, CFCG, LEAP and the Ramsey community!

All council meetings are open to members on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. The agenda is posted on Redeemer's website under Governance. If interested in attending, please email the Church Council President at banemchek@msn.com and I will send the link to the Zoom Meeting. If you are interested in addressing the Church Council, please let me know what you wish to discuss, and it will be added to the agenda.

Peace to you all, Barbara

Music Notes - Now the Green Blade Rises...

by Fran Morton, Music Director

As a life-long gardener, I've always liked the text of this particular hymn (ELW 379). It uses a gardening metaphor of seeds sprouting and new growth breaking ground to tell the story of the Three Days and the Resurrection. As I look through the ELW it turns out there are a number of hymn texts that refer to nature and the seasons to celebrate aspects of Christian life. For the Easter season there is ELW 384 that pictures the weather on Easter Day as "That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light. . ." There's another good Easter one, for some reason included in the Christmas section - ELW 299. The first verse text goes, "Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor. April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders at the holy unseen power of the tree which bears the flower."

Turns out as I browse the ELW, there are hymns that refer to every season of the year and celebrate nature in many different ways. This is not an accident, an example of preferences by the ELW editors board, or unconscious channeling by generations of poets. In very early days when Christians began to move into the Roman Empire, this new religion was strange indeed. It didn't fit culturally with religions that worshipped many gods and declared the emperor's birthday a religious holiday. While Christians mostly lived in their own communities and practiced their central rites of Baptism and the Eucharist, individuals still had to live in their new society every day. As Professor Meeks of Yale University says, "They (Christians) mark themselves off from the culture around them. They're seen as different, by outsiders and by themselves.

On the other hand, they depend upon things which are utterly common in that culture. They interpret themselves with the symbols and the language and the expectations that are common to many many groups, both religious and otherwise, in that culture." Aha! I bet they also re-interpreted some symbols and metaphors and brought them into their Christian practice as well - like nature as a metaphor or point of comparison for Christian events and observances.

Actually, a brief scan through the ELW shows nature-reference hymn texts for all 'seasons' of the liturgical calendar. There's even one by John Newton (who wrote Amazing Grace). It's ELW 550.

I leave you with the first verse from ELW 342, another one of my personal favorites: "There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
Whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion.
Tree of all beauty."

Looking for Worship Volunteers!

Redeemer is looking for **Worship assistants**, who read during the services and assist with communion, **Altar Guild** volunteers who help set up for and clean after services, and for **ushers**, who are on hand to assist worshippers with any need. The tasks are not complicated and do not take much more time than the services themselves. Go to the main page of our website, redeemerramsey.org for the link to the signup!

Social Ministry - Quilt Sunday and Meal Packing Event

by Regina Karch



Please join us once again to celebrate our fellow Church members. Even with the Covid restrictions the members of our Church Quilters have made 30 more quilts this year!

The quilts are

BEAUTIFUL as well as comforting. Please join our church service on Quilt Sunday, June 6th, 2021, so you can enjoy the beauty of these lovely quilts.

More good news going forward! We are trying to once again organize a Meal Packing Event



for some time in Autumn, 2021. We are coordinating this event and will observe all Covid regulations to provide a safe and healthy environment for all who participate. Please stay tuned for updates on the Meal Packing Event!



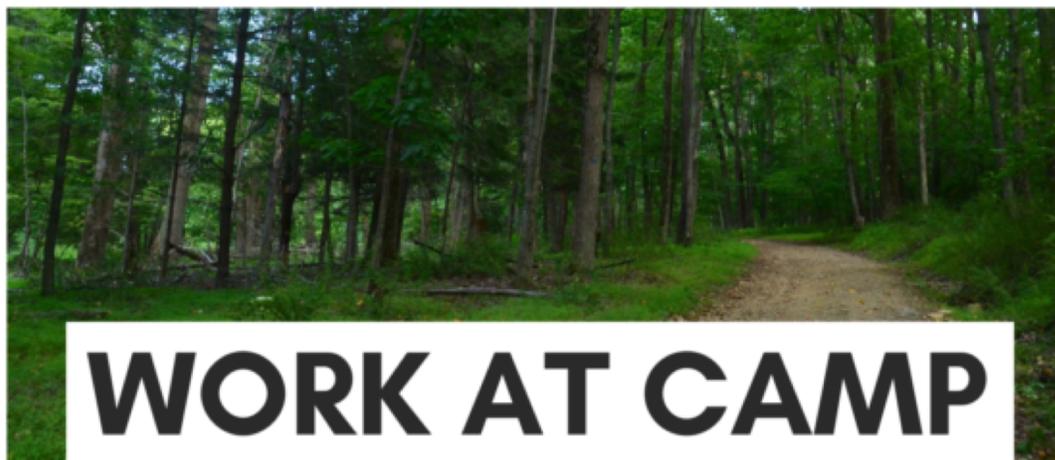
To my Redeemer family, just a thank you to let you know how very much your thoughtfulness meant to me this Easter. Barbara Dixon



Young Adult and Youth News

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

CROSS ROADS 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

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>



Christian Education News

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



Sunday School Schedule for May

Every Sunday in May:

9am Toddler - 2nd Grade on Zoom

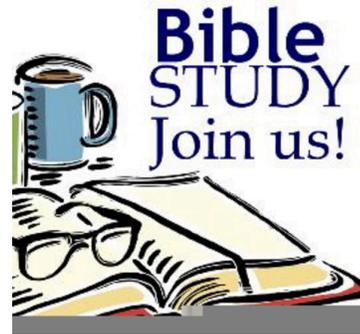
9:30am 3rd - 6th Grade on Zoom

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



Confirmation News

On April 25th, Pastor Paul Miller taught a class on Prayer. On May 2nd, the students will learn about Stewardship and on May 16th they will learn about Vocation. Also on May 16th, the 2nd year confirmands along with their parents and faith mentors will have a Zoom session to finish up the program. Affirmation of Baptism is scheduled for Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd.

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 April they learned about the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In May they will learn about the Gospel of John, Acts, Paul and the Early Church, Paul's Theology, and Romans.

Young Adult and Youth News

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



Congratulations to Zach Pacenza! Zach is now an Eagle Scout! Zach's Eagle Project was building benches and flower boxes at The Hermitage in HoHoKus, cleaning the patio behind the Rosencrantz House, and mulching the flower beds.



Congratulations! Redeemer members, Caeden Doyle (8th gr, trombone), center, and Connor Behrmann (7th gr, trumpet), right, won medals at the 2021 New Jersey State Solo Festival, a statewide competition for student musicians. Well done!

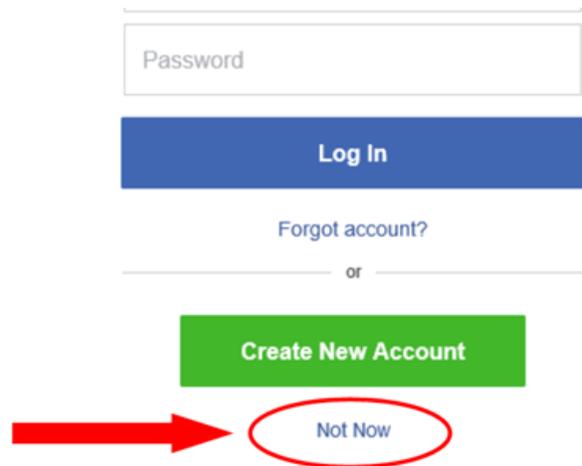
Watch on Facebook...WITHOUT Facebook!

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!**

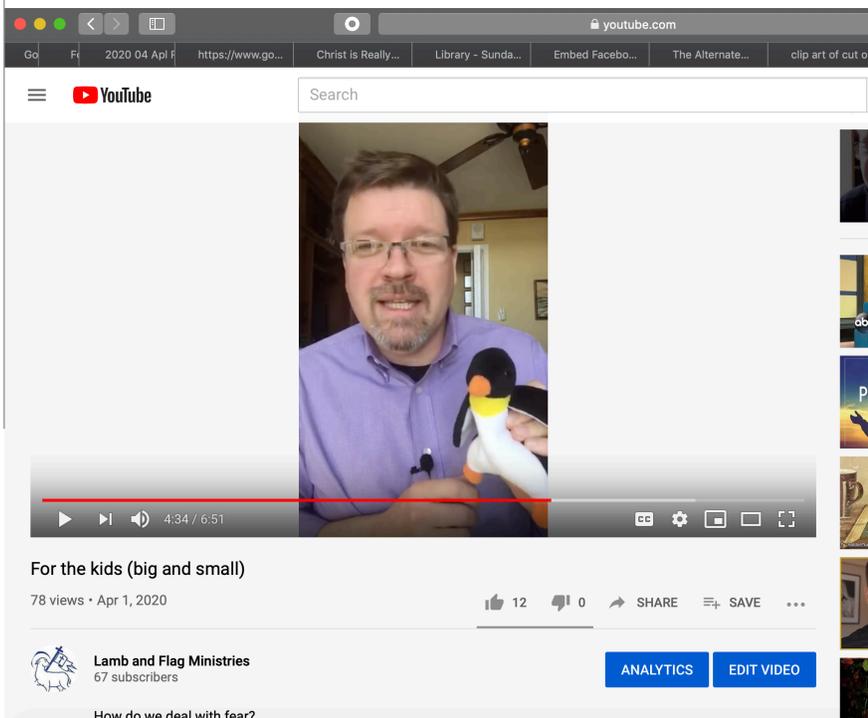
Here is a link to Redeemer's page. Type this into your browser address bar: <https://www.facebook.com/redeemerramsey/>

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

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 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.

- 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 |
| 5th Sunday of Easter 8:00A Worship Service 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 4:30P Confirmation Class on Zoom | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 10A Bible Study | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 6th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 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 | 9 | 10 | 11 7:30P Council Meeting on Zoom | 12 10A Bible Study | 13 Ascension of the Lord | 14 | 15 |
| 7th Sunday of Easter 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 4:30P Confirmation Class on Zoom 5:30P Confirmation 2nd yr students on Zoom | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 10A Bible Study | 20 RR Articles Due | 21 | 22 |
| Day of Pentecost 8:00A Worship Service 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 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 10A Bible Study | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Trinity 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 | 30 | 31  | | | | | |

****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

- 5/1 Margaret Blanchard Curtis
- 5/2 Tim O'Keefe, Jr., Maggie Papp
- 5/3 Jeff Backhaus
- 5/4 Meghan Layng
- 5/6 Phil Mones
- 5/7 Conner Layng, Cara Palumbo, Chris Vozech
- 5/8 Ryan Koch, Sara Wilson
- 5/9 Bettina Vozech
- 5/10 Lauren Roden
- 5/12 Bob Hurta
- 5/13 Matthew Gager, Elise Hommez
- 5/14 Olivia Doherty, Noelle Field, Erik Hildebrand, Barbara Johnsen
- 5/15 Jack Forbes, Cheryl McKeown, Kyle Pacenza
- 5/16 Carla Backhaus, Melissa Karch, Julia Kissel, Charlie Manke, Landon Wilson
- 5/17 Jodie Meyer
- 5/18 Brenda Dexter
- 5/19 Kathryn Busanic
- 5/20 Diane Rigg
- 5/21 Lis Conboy
- 5/22 Chloe Hudson, Emily Yirce
- 5/23 Clair Bradley, Ryan Kirkby
- 5/24 Jordan Karch, Cord Meyer
- 5/25 Dean Cartier
- 5/26 Ian Doyle, Chris Scala
- 5/27 Sarah Anderson, Serena Kolenut, Josephine Schultz
- 5/28 Liz Loranger, Jennifer Thompson
- 5/29 Greg Sundermann, Patrick Vernola
- 5/30 Joseph Fullam, Brayden Pitek, Ryder Pitek
- 5/31 Marshall Greulich



Wedding Anniversaries

- 5/8 Doreen and Paul Rosen
- 5/13 Trisha and John Manke
Stanley & Kathleen Rutkowski
- 5/15 Gerhart and Rose Lempp
- 5/21 Inge & Asmut Kahns
- 5/22 Jennifer and Art Thompson
- 5/28 Laurie and Guy Vogt
- 5/31 Joyce and Fred Backhaus



Baptismal Anniversaries

- 5/1 Mike McKeown, Jackie O'Keefe,
Jessica Peterson, Kristen Peterson
- 5/6 Nate Buettner
- 5/7 Margaret Lee
- 5/13 Ali Certosimo, Reid Cusack, Elise Hommez
- 5/15 Steven Stauss
- 5/16 Thomas Austin, Owen Austin
- 5/17 Audrey Hommez, Kaiden Lothrop,
Landon Wilson
- 5/18 MJ Lee, Brooks Makely
- 5/21 John Grotheer
- 5/22 Amanda Rosen, William Jost
- 5/23 Ed Stengel
- 5/26 Alexa Austin, Mia White, PJ White,
Paul White
- 5/28 Cameron Palumbo, Rebecca Vogt

Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of June are due Thursday, May 20

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