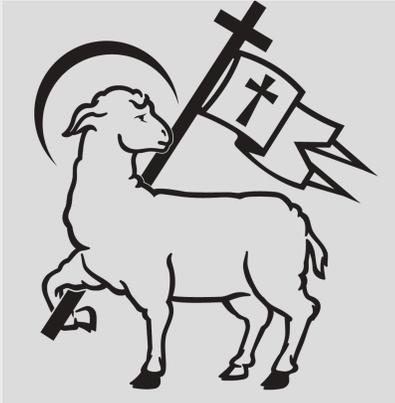


# THE REDEEMER REMINDER

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## Pastor's Message

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, Ph. D.

It is often said that the ministry of the church never changes, even though the world in which the church ministers is constantly changing. Well, there have been some pretty big changes recently in our American context for ministry. I'm thinking particularly about the recent decisions of the US Supreme Court regarding prayer in schools and the issue of abortion. There have been other important SCOTUS decisions this past month as well, but these two in particular make it easy to see how our religious faith as Lutherans is called into question in our American context.

One's approach to abortion is connected to deep moral commitments that people have about the nature of life, human agency, and the process of bearing and rearing children. If you take your Christian faith seriously, you have a viewpoint on the issue. As for prayer in schools, the issue has shifted under the pressure of increased religious and non-religious diversity in the population. One can no longer assume the old Protestant/Catholic/Jewish familial model of American religious identity of the '50s and '60's.

As Christians, we are called by baptism into the ministry of Christ's church IN THE WORLD. As we try to articulate our Christian witness to the wider world, we discover our differences, our presumptions, and our blind spots. And the emphasis is on "try". We cannot assume we will get it perfectly right. Nevertheless, Jesus calls us to work together to learn more, to strive harder, and to give grace more freely, as we struggle to find our common witness in this process. Our ELCA church has resources to help us in this process. (You will find our Presiding Bishop's reference to such a resource in her pastoral letter on the SCOTUS abortion decision, which I've provided on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.) May we remain open to the insights of the wider Lutheran community, and to the leading and healing of the Holy Spirit, as we seek to carry out our Christian witness and fulfill our baptismal calling together. PL

## Redeemer Quilt Ministry



On June 12th, Redeemer proudly dedicated this year's haul of 37 quilts, which will be sent to Lutheran World Relief, to be distributed to those in need in other countries, particularly refugees and those in situations of hardship. God bless our quilters, and those these quilts will comfort!

Beautiful things  
COME TOGETHER  
one stitch  
AT A TIME



## Redeemer Honors Walter Kaulfers

*[This past June, Redeemer had the pleasure to honor Walter Kaulfers, longtime superintendent of Redeemer Cemetery, on the occasion of his "retirement" from the Cemetery Board. We honored Walt with a commemorative picture of Redeemer's back stained-glass window, and thanked him for his years of service. Here is Walt's memories of his tenure with Redeemer Cemetery...]*

Walt writes, "I was originally approached by Pastor Richard Creadick in 1975 when I and my beloved first wife Maureen purchased our first home on Island Park Ave (where the church parsonage was also located). Pastor Creadick mentioned to me that Redeemer owned a cemetery in Mahwah, and noting how I took care of the grounds around my own home, asked if I would consider taking over as



superintendent in the future. Since Maureen and I had only recently joined Redeemer, we did not know the church owned a cemetery. I said I was interested and would consider the position.

Some years later, Redeemer's then superintendent John Grader retired and was replaced by Herb Daehnke, with assistance by David Daehnke. I then took the position of Chairman of the Cemetery Board, but I was also employed full-time at the Meadowlands Racetrack as an electrician. When Herb passed away in 1999, I then assumed the position as superintendent/chairman, which required me to leave work from time to time when I received a call from a funeral home to meet a family to make arrangements and to be there for burials. Fortunately, I had very understanding supervisors at the racetrack to allow me to accomplish this extra work. The year was 2001 when I retired from the Track. At that time we had Lou Manke, Bill Conover and myself working to keep our cemetery looking beautiful. Dave was working full time in the "Arboretum" business and helped out on weekends. In 2012, I relinquished my position as superintendent to Dave Daehnke, as I was focusing my efforts at that time on my role with the Freemasons on a NJ State level, in order to prepare for the position of Grand Master in 2016. But I still held my position as chairman of the Cemetery Board until 2022. I can truly say that it has been an honor and pleasure to serve our cemetery in various positions for 30+ years."

—And Redeemer thanks you, Walt Kaulfers, for all you have done for Redeemer Cemetery! May God bless you!

## Worship News & Christian Ed News

by Gerhart Lempp and Heather Layng

### Worship News

#### OUTDOOR WORSHIP–July 17

Please join us for our next OUTDOOR Worship Service on July 17, 2022, at 9:15am. We will be gathering on the lawn outside the Education Building. PLEASE BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS! (And maybe some sunglasses:)

### Calling all VBS Volunteers!

We will be hosting a “Check-in” meeting on July 10th, 2022, at 7:30 PM. This meeting will be both in-person and simultaneously on ZOOM. The purpose is to check-in with our current volunteers, review some information, and see where our continuing volunteer and staffing needs are. Thank you all in advance for your participation!



### HOW TO FIND our Sunday sign-ups:

Please go to our webpage, [www.redeemerramsey.org](http://www.redeemerramsey.org), each week for the links to sign up to **attend** worship, volunteer to **assist** in worship, and volunteer to **help out** at coffee hour.

## Thank you!

*[In 2022, Redeemer's Church council voted to make a donation of \$750 to each of the three volunteer First Responder agencies in Ramsey: Ramsey Fire, Ramsey Rescue, and Ramsey Ambulance. These donations came from the tithe funds generated by our use of our endowment for the 2022 church budget, passed by the congregation at our 2022 Congregational meeting in January.]*

Dear Pastor Linderman and members of The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer,

Ramsey Rescue Squad would like to thank you for your most generous donation. Your support will help our members to continue to receive the training and equipment needed to serve our community.

With thanks, Ramsey Rescue Squad

## Music Notes

by Fran Morton, Music Director

*"... rings out the changes. . . till a new earth fills with music"*

We're officially launched on the organ upgrade project. Peragallo is ordering components for the new Midi system and integrating the Redeemer project into their work schedule. I'll be talking with them shortly to sync up our calendars and start the first phase. You'll notice when we start that one since the organ console will be removed to Peragallo's workshop for a full-scale renovation and refurbishment. That first phase will take several months to complete. Not to worry, the "look" of the console is not changing, it will still be the lovely wood matching with the chancel floor and furnishings.

During the time the console is gone Sunday music will go to Plan B. We'll use the piano and our resident instrumentalists and vocalists to help lead/accompany singing and provide special music during

services. Which brings me to the invitation to all of you.

We've now seen the variety of people who've played our handbells, and enjoyed it. I'm proud to say everyone who's played so far has volunteered to play again. I'm now embarked on writing and arranging music for our handbells to play, so we can use them as frequently as we have ringers. The invitation is open to everyone - we have little bells and bigger bells, so it doesn't matter how strong you are in the arms and wrists. When we need to use printed music I color code for each bell so you don't have to be a champion music notation-reader to ring successfully. All you need to do is let me know that you'd like to try out handbell ringing and we'll fit you into the plan. You'll enjoy it - just ask our most recent ringers. If you'd like to volunteer, you know where to find me on Sunday morning and the email is easy. Just email me at [music@redeemerramsey.org](mailto:music@redeemerramsey.org).



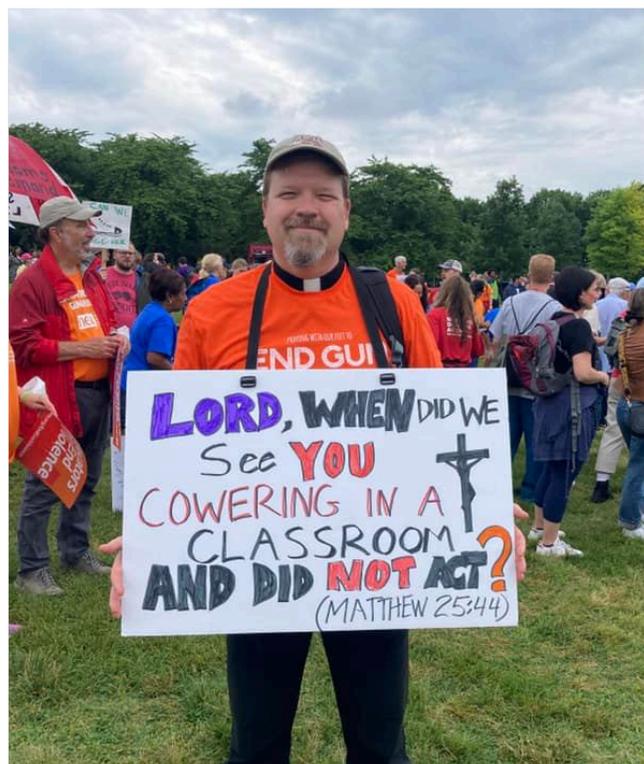
On June 19th,  
the choir sang  
together with the  
congregation  
after a 2-year  
hiatus! God is  
good!

## Our Public Ministry highlights...



Redeemer was blessed to have Pastor Tim Krick, regional rep for Lutheran World Relief, visit on June 2nd. He wanted to say a big "Thank You" to our members for our support and generosity over the years. Check out the video greeting on our Facebook page, and look for more about LWR's work around the world (especially in Ukraine now!) at [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org).

Pastor Linderman was in Washington, DC on June 11th for the March for Our Lives event to end gun violence. There were many powerful speakers, including several young people who are leaders in the movement, such as David Hogg (Parkland school shooting survivor) and Yolanda King (granddaughter of Martin Luther King Jr).





## **2022 Redeemer Vacation Bible School**

Monday, August 1 – Friday, August 5 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

MONUMENTAL -Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

**We need adult volunteers to be Crew Leaders, Bible Adventures Station Leader all week and Music Leader for the Opening and Closing on Monday & Tuesday.**

Middle and High School students are welcome and encouraged to volunteer!!!

To register a child or a teen volunteer, go to: <https://www.redeemerramsey.org/vbs-2022.html>

## **ELCA Presiding Bishop letter on SCOTUS Abortion ruling**

by The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton (June 24, 2022)

*(The following letter was published on June 24, 2022, by Bishop Eaton as a pastoral letter to the members and congregations of the ELCA. It is intended to provide a brief summary of our Church's position and commitments on the issue. The ELCA's 1991 social statement, "Abortion", can be found online at this link: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Abortion>)*

Dear [ELCA] church,

Whatever personal perspective one might take on the June 24 abortion ruling from the Supreme Court, it is the legal framework in which we now minister, and I wish to speak a pastoral word at this time.

The Supreme Court has voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, removing federal constitutional protection for safe and legal abortion and leaving decisions about abortion law largely to the states. As a result, safe and legal abortion will likely not be accessible in every state. This church's 1991 social statement "Abortion" argues that "the number of induced abortions is a source of deep concern" but teaches that the practice should be legal (pp. 3, 9-10). In other words, "Laws should be enacted and enforced justly for the preservation and enhancement of life, and should avoid unduly encumbering or endangering the lives of women" (p. 9). Overturning *Roe v. Wade* and placing decisions about abortion regulation at the state level encumbers and endangers the lives of all persons who need to make decisions about unexpected pregnancies.

First, as a pastor of this church, I want to acknowledge that this decision affects many people, especially those whose pregnancies unfold in complex situations and the people who love them. Many now find their moral agency restricted because federal law no longer guarantees access to legal and safe abortion. They already face difficult moral questions, and the Supreme Court decision only adds to their anguish. As our social statement reminds us, we have both the freedom and the obligation to serve neighbors in complex situations. As a church, we are called at this moment to recognize and spiritually support people who are struggling with decisions around pregnancy.

Second, as presiding bishop, I want to remind this church that, despite this new legal landscape, we continue to depend on our social teaching for guidance. Our social statement ["Abortion", 1991] provides the moral framework for our church's communal discernment and ministry, holding in tension both the strong Christian presumption to preserve and protect all life as well as the complex moral situations in which pregnancy sometimes occurs. Our social teaching is complex and does not hew to clear categories or labels such as "pro-abortion" or "anti-abortion."

That complexity is reflected in several points. The [social] statement recognizes that pregnant persons have moral agency; they are the ones to make decisions about a pregnancy (see pp. 5-6). This church and its ministers trust them to decide but expect them to make such decisions in

## Bishop Eaton's letter on SCOTUS Ruling, continued...

*(continued from previous page)*

relationship—with God, self, partner, family, ministers and others.

I also want to underscore for the whole body of Christ the statement's exhortation "that those who counsel persons faced with unintended pregnancies respect how deeply the woman's pregnancy involves her whole person—body, mind and spirit—in relation to all the commitments that comprise her stewardship of life" (p. 5).

Further, our church teaching holds that there are no exclusive rights in pregnancy. A pregnant person does not have an exclusive right to abort a fetus at all points during the pregnancy. A developing life does not have an exclusive right to be born (p. 2). This church does not support abortion as a normative form of birth control but rather understands it as necessary in some morally responsible circumstances. This church does not condone late-term abortions except in extreme circumstances, which must be determined by the individual with their medical caregivers (p. 7).

This church acknowledges that individuals and religious traditions hold divergent viewpoints over when life begins. These divergent views are not only scientific but also biblical and cultural. The ELCA social statement acknowledges these ethical ambiguities and states that "the

closer the life in the womb comes to full term the more serious such [moral] issues become." (p. 7).

As we live into this new legal framework, we can respond to and minister in the current situation, for instance, by ministering to individuals who seek abortions; advocating for laws that provide free or affordable health care, child care and education; providing and promoting sex education; continuing to be a community of discernment where thoughtful and diverse perspectives can be shared and heard; and advocating for state laws that provide legal, safe and affordable abortions, and against legislation that would outlaw abortion in all circumstances (p. 9).

Finally, I wish to remind everyone that this church supports peaceful means of expression within a diverse society. Peaceful protest is a crucial element of civic engagement; violent protest is not, and this church reproves it. Likewise, this church is on record against hate speech. Let us be instruments for peace where there is none. Let us listen to one another. Let us serve the needs of neighbors in all the complexities life presents. God calls us to be for others, just as God in Christ is for us.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

**MARCH 2022**

**[ELCA.org/disaster](http://ELCA.org/disaster)**

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine’s western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Hundreds of thousands of people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities and pastoral care.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

**Your gifts designated for “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.**

.....  
Yes, I want to help!

Lutheran Disaster Response: Eastern Europe Crisis Response      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IDG0103

Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or make your check out to  
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,  
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write “Eastern Europe Crisis  
Response” or “Where needed most” on your check’s memo line.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# July

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>x</b> 3  9:15A Svc of Holy Communion 10:15A Coffee Hour	4  	5	6	7	8	9
<b>x</b> 10  9:15A Svc of Holy Communion 10:15A Coffee Hour  7:30P VBS Volunteer meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>x</b> 17 <i>OUTDOOR SERVICE</i>  9:15A Svc of Holy Communion 10:15A Coffee Hour	18	19	20	21	22	23
				RR Articles Due		
<b>x</b> 24  9:15A Svc of Holy Communion 10:15A Coffee Hour	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>x</b> 31  9:15A Svc of Holy Communion 10:15A Coffee Hour						

**\*\*Virtual Worship Services are Live on Facebook @ The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Ramsey, NJ. and on YouTube Channel "Lamb and Flaq 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*

- 7/1 Gerhart Lempp
- 7/4 Matthew Thompson
- 7/7 Tony Conboy
- 7/9 Jax Covello
- 7/10 Kirsten Miller, Chase Tannis
- 7/11 Justin Royle
- 7/13 Robert Buettner
- 7/15 Eden Hudson, John Schaffer, Catie Vernola
- 7/17 Kylie Gunther, Emma Kunz
- 7/19 Greg Wilson
- 7/20 Walter Kaufers
- 7/21 Lee March, Matthew Pra
- 7/23 Don Schreeck
- 7/24 Alexa Cherven, Ashley Gunther, Waverly Marrett, Melissa Oliver
- 7/25 Cheryl Kissel
- 7/26 Rusty Kaiser, TJ Bradley
- 7/27 Sharon Vogel
- 7/30 Tracey Farinaro, Greg Vozech
- 7/31 Dot Dykstra



**Wedding Anniversaries**

- June 25 Doreen and Don Schreeck**
- 7/17 Rosa and Gus Hess
- 7/22 Dianne and Tom Knichel
- 7/23 Arlene and Warren Rybak



**Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 7/3 Fred Ufferfilge
- 7/7 Ashley Pacenza
- 7/10 Kurt Grotheer
- 7/13 Charles Manke, Chad Thompson
- 7/15 Jakob Oliver
- 7/17 Conner Layng
- 7/21 Gwen Kaufers
- 7/23 Payton Nista
- 7/25 Aiden Bogatch
- 7/26 Chase Cusack, Jackson Koch
- 7/28 Emma Roden, Justin Royle, Madison Royle
- 7/30 Matthew Wilson

Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of August are due Thursday, July 21st.

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