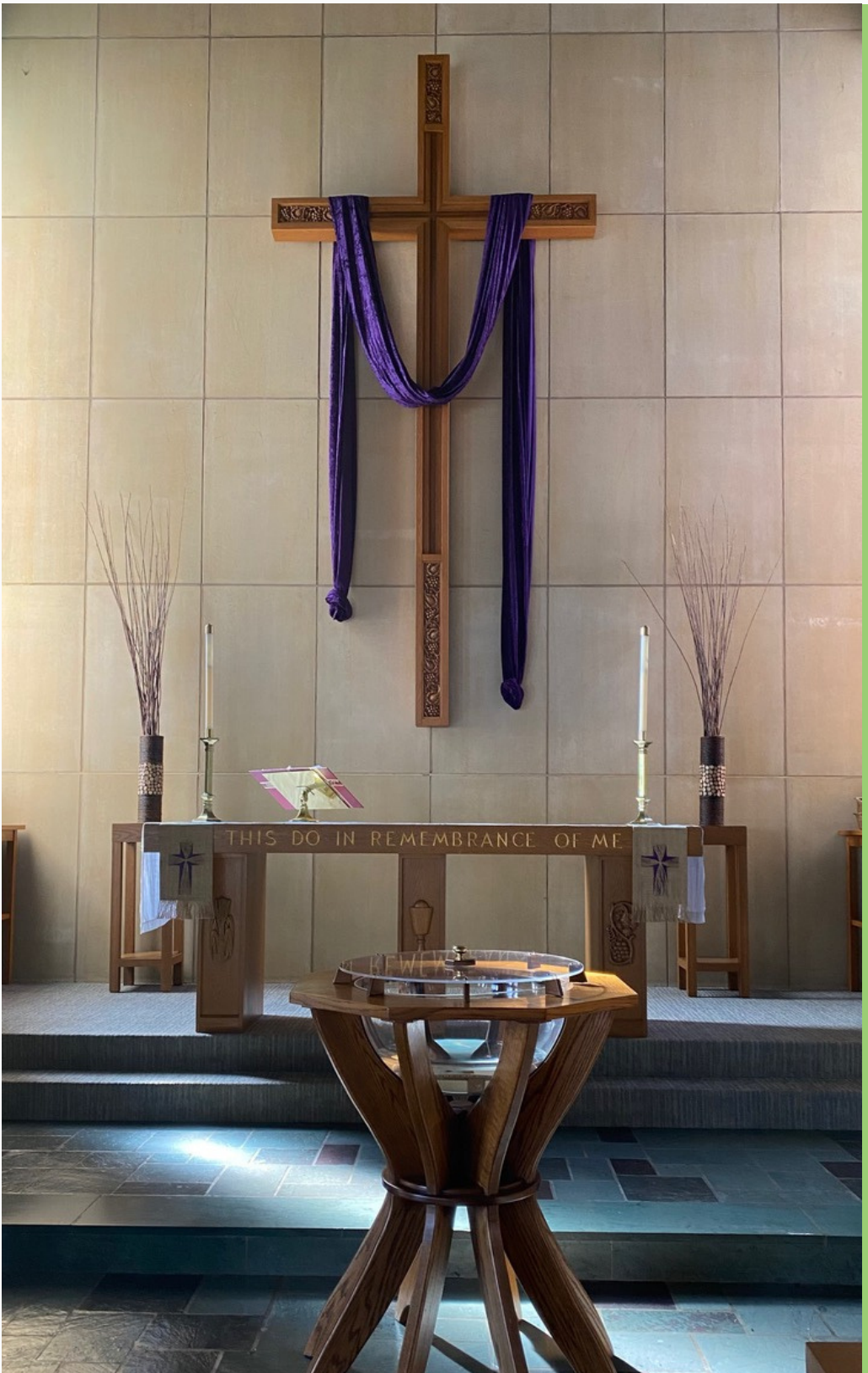
Redeemer Record



PASTOR'S COLUMN

At Redeemer this Spring we will be finding ways to learn and grow from the strength of our community and to love the world God's loves so much in all its diversity.

Read More on Page 2

LENT PREVIEW

Throughout Lent we will learn how the faith of our neighbors deepens our own Christian Faith.

Read More on Page 5

MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS

We will focus on improving mental health, raising awareness, and collaborating with community partners.

Read More on Page 19

Pastor's Column

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH

One of the great joys of being a part of a Christian community is worshipping regularly with the same people. Sunday in and Sunday out over the months and years and decades we gather to worship and praise, to pray and be blessed. Churches are unique third spaces where people can make friends across generations and, uniquely in our increasingly polarized society, engage in conversation with people whose opinions differ from their own. Church at its best allows us to be vulnerable, to share what really matters, and engage in dialog that makes our world a more connected place.

At Redeemer this Spring we will be finding ways to learn and grow from the strength of our community and to love the world God's loves so much in all its diversity.

This Lent we will be reading Barbara Brown Taylor's Book "Holy Envy" and learning about our neighbors' faith from professors and religious leaders on Sundays during mid-hour. Because we are confident in our own beliefs, we can learn from others without being threatened by difference. Like Barbara Brown Taylor we can "discover the spiritual riches God can teach us from the faith of others." Watch for field trips and other opportunities to expand your vision!

This Easter Season we will be working on living into one of our goals from vision work last year: Improving Mental Health – Work to raise awareness of mental health and related needs and collaborate with community partners to increase access to supportive and healing programs. On Sunday May 21st at 9AM Redeemer will be taking part in Walk the Walk, a walk that benefits the Counseling Center at the Community House. We hope that as a church taking a visible stand promoting mental health, we can help decrease stigma and support local services that make a difference.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son"

– John 3:16

God's love, poured out on the cross, is intended for all people. The strength of our community here at Redeemer allows us to meet our neighbors of other religions with love and respect. Our ability to share our own struggles allows us to better serve those who have unmet mental health needs. When the love God shared with the world in Jesus flows through us, we most truly share resurrection's power, to connect and to heal. Thanks be to God!

Vicar's Column

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON

"Join me for Iftar!" A Palestinian Muslim cobbler, Emad, exclaims to my friend Katharine and me while we are perusing his shop looking at the boots he makes by hand. Katharine and I were the two global mission volunteers living in Ramallah, in the West Bank from 2017-2018. We had been in the cobbler's shop for less than an hour, learning about his trade and how he got started, before a generous invitation to join his meal. Emad was eager to extend hospitality and Katharine and I had shared with him that we were fasting throughout Ramadan (no food, no water from sun-up to sun-down), as a spiritual practice and to grow in deeper understanding of Ramadan and our 96% Muslim Palestinian host community. Days were long and challenging, and evenings brought profound and unexpected hospitality from the community which deepened and strengthened our relationships. This offering of radical welcome and hospitality from people in the community was common, yet still unexpected each time we were invited to join in a Muslim tradition. "Sure, why not?"

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."
-Matthew 25:35

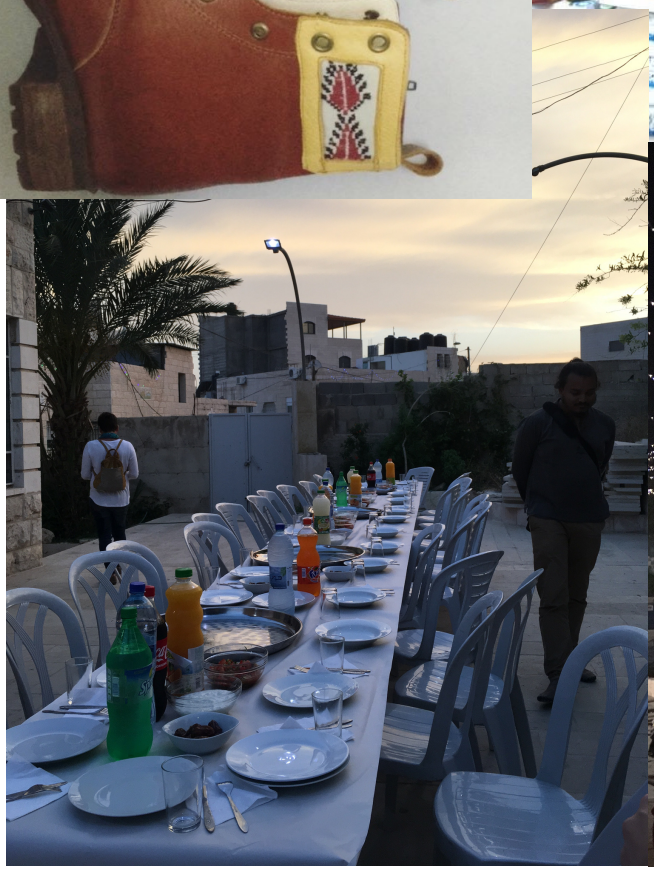
Our evening with Emad was full of laughter, joy, and good food. He showed us his shoe workshop and we each helped him customize a pair of boots to take home. Nothing about the situation screamed "stranger danger" and there was a genuine tone to the way we shared and learned about the spiritual time of drawing closer to God during Ramadan.

Ramadan was a time to pray, connect, and care for others. If I'm being honest, it was also a time I felt a little holy envy of my Muslim neighbors. "Holy Envy" is "what you feel when you hear about, observe, or participate in a religious practice of another faith and you find it so meaningful and delight-ful that you wish that your faith had a [similar] practice."

As a Christian, I don't observe Ramadan. However, there are shared values in Islam and Christianity that this feeling of holy envy can flag, and it offers deeper reflection on our own faith. I found this extremely transformative in the way I embody hospitality to others, in the way Jesus models.

رمضان كريم

RAMADAN KAREEM



Through the radical hospitality of the Muslims in my host community, I was able to more deeply reflect on the way I'm called as a Christian to my own values of welcoming others. It also helped me challenge myself to do better and recognize where I might fall short of embodying Jesus' example. In all honesty I can't say I'd invite a total stranger to my Easter dinner, but I did recently sign up to become a welcoming presence for refugee youth. There is always room to grow in the way I extend a welcome to others, and ask for forgiveness in the ways I fall short. I continue contemplating this example from my neighbors' welcome throughout Ramadan in the Holy Land, and it is part of the reason I chose an interfaith emphasis for our Lenten journey together as Redeemer community.

In our journey towards Easter, we're welcomed to consider how the faith of our neighbors might deepen our community relationships as well as our call to embody our own Christian faith with and among others. I'm excited for the various learning opportunities at Redeemer during this season, and hope it's a time of enrichment and depth for all. There are many opportunities, and I hope you will join!

LENTEN SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY

Lenten small group book study returns with opportunities to gather and read Barbara Brown Taylor's "Holy Envy". This is a wonderful time to connect and learn about how interfaith experiences can deepen our Christian faith. There are several groups being formed and you can sign up at the Lent bulletin board outside the Parish Room, or by emailing vicarkelsey@redeemerhinsdale.org. Copies of the book are available for a donation of $10.

SOUP SUPPERS

Soup suppers are back! Please join us in the fellowship room from 5:30pm-6.45pm for a meal and time to connect before Wednesday worship.

LENT WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday night worship will follow Holden Evening Prayer composed by Marty Haugen, and will include readings from Christianity alongside texts from other religious communities. They will be read side-by-side for contemplation at this service in the parish room from 7-7:30pm.

FIELD TRIPS

There are two field trip opportunities to nearby faith communities, that I'm particularly excited about. All are encouraged to attend. Please mark your calendars, you won't want to miss these!

ADULT EDUCATION

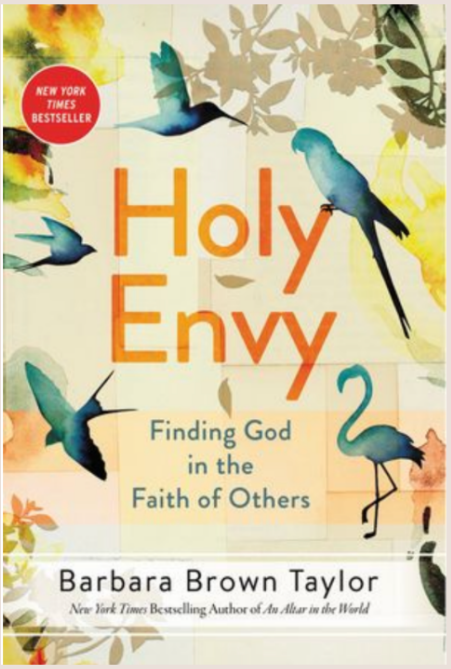
In adult education, we welcome guest speakers to share about Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Wednesday's at 7pm in the Parish Room

begins March 1, 2023

LENT SMALL GROUPS



Groups will be meeting throughout Lent(February and March), reading *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Sign up on the bulletin board outside the Parish room, or email vicarkelsey@redeemerhinsdale.org

Deadline for sign up is Feb 15th!

Copies of the book are available to anyone for a suggested donation of $10.

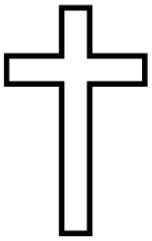
interfaith learning visit to the
MECCA CENTER
mosque
March 19
Depart Redeemer at 12:15
Visit 12:30-1:30
Lunch and debrief 1:30-2:15

VISIT TO THE HINDU TEMPLE
OF GREATER CHICAGO
March 26th
Depart Redeemer at 12:15
Visit 12:30-1:30
Lunch and debrief 1:30-2:15

LENT

OUR NEIGHBOR'S FAITH
DEEPENING OUR FAITH

FEBRUARY 26TH
THRU MARCH 29TH



Worship

SUNDAY
8:30am & 11:00am*

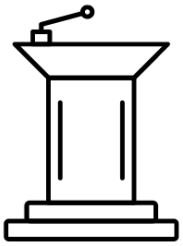
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
5:30pm-6:45pm
Soup Supper

7:00pm-7:30pm
Holden Evening Prayer

Interfaith Opportunities

MECCA CENTER MOSQUE
Willowbrook
March 19th
depart Redeemer
@ 12:15pm

HINDU TEMPLE
Lemont
March 26th
depart Redeemer
@ 12:15pm



Adult Education

SUNDAY
ADULT FORUM
9:45am-10:45am

- Feb. 26th World Religions
- Mar. 5th Islam
- Mar. 12th Judaism
- Mar. 19th Hinduism

BOOK STUDY
"Holy Envy" by
Barbara Brown Taylor

*Hybrid worship

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT **REDEEMERHINSDALE.ORG**

Music & Worship

BY GRAEME SHIELDS

CHRISTMAS REVIEW and THANKS

A very belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Redeemer! Of course, it wouldn't have been such a Merry Christmas without all of the help and hard work from this congregation. The kids did an excellent job with the Christmas Pageant O Come Let Us Adore Him and so did the volunteers. All of the rehearsals, costumes, and extra eyes, ears, and hands made all the difference. Thank you to Kate Sahlas, Bruce Forbush, Frank Masek, and Tracy Held for all of their help. If you'd like to relive the Pageant, you can find the recording on Redeemer's website at this address: redeemerhinsdale.org/christmas/

The Lessons and Carols service this year was built around Michael Burkhardt's Savior of the Nations, Come which featured interesting settings of familiar Advent and Christmas hymns and readings by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Festival Choir pulled out all the stops (and so did pianist Pamela Wallace for extra service music via piano-organ duets) but I also wanted to thank the readers who did an excellent job: Marge Chapello, Bruce Forbush, Jim Krillenberger, Galen Banashak, Jo Changelian, Jacquie Ravnic, and Mary Landis. If you'd like to relive the Lessons and Carols service, you can find a recording on Redeemer's website at the below address (scroll to the bottom of the page): redeemerhinsdale.org/music/

THANKS

The three Christmas Eve services featured Festival Choir members, Sal Garza and Erin Matonte as vocal soloists, and Lev Garbar on trumpet as well as three different renditions of The First Noel arranged by Graeme. We enjoyed a very healthy attendance on Christmas Eve and a more intimate service on Christmas Day.

Thank you to all the readers, candle lighters, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, musicians, decorators, and everyone else who had a hand in bringing these December services together. We couldn't have done it without you!

RIC SUNDAY and RIC HEART ART PROJECT

Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Sunday was January 29th. We were fortunate to be able to invite Ezra Brown, a trans-identifying seminary student at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, to preach at both services. The Festival Choir, dressed in a variety of colors, prepared Allen Pote's We Will Be a Shelter for Each Other and were accompanied by Olivia Corcoran on flute. We also enjoyed a special coffee hour with cupcakes from Jennivee's Bakery, a trans-owned bakery in Chicago, with gluten free cupcakes made by Gaby (Graeme's wife) and extra bars and treats brought by Nathan, Sonja, Aubrey, and Eleanor Will.

RIC Sunday also kicked off a 3-week congregation-wide RIC Heart Art Project, reflecting each week on a different portion of Redeemers Welcome Statement. Inspired by an "enfleshed" project and an idea sparked by Pastor Aneel, it has come to fruition in no small part through Vicar Kelsey's artistic abilities, Jacque Ravnic's paper hearts, and the guidance and help of Redeemer's RIC group. The music during the congregation's reflection and writing time has been tailored to each prompt, namely excerpts from Ned Rorem's A Quaker Reader for focus on LGBTQIA+ inclusion, Florence Price's Adoration for focus on racial diversity and equity, and two settings of the hymn tune Break Bread Together for focus on Redeemer's open table. The heart is hanging in the narthex next to the Luther Rose; the responses have been wonderful to read.

In addition to help from Pastor Aneel, Vicar Kelsey, and Redeemer's RIC group, a big thank you also goes out to those who led our prompts with Temple Talks each week. Will Swenson, Galen Banashak, Lanny Wilson, Betty Hines-Shah, Victoria Zalik, and Veronica Zalik.

LENTEN SEASON

Now as the Lenten season approaches, there are many upcoming musical events. On Sunday, February 19th, we will enjoy an "Alleluia Hymn Sing" where we get all of our "Alleluias" in before Lent begins. Please join us!

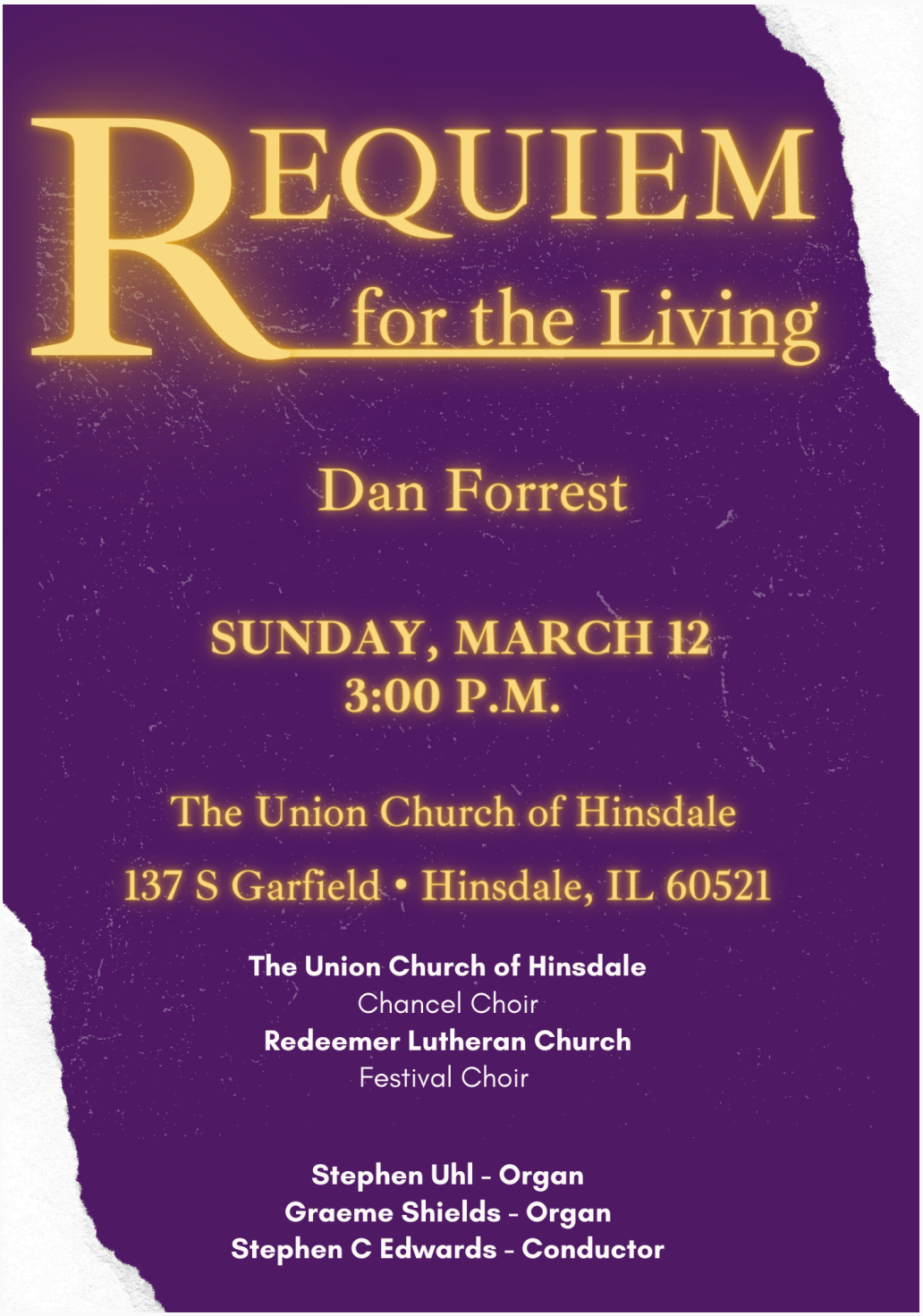
This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 22nd. There will be a service in the Sanctuary at 12:00pm and at 7:00pm (the 7pm service will be in person and online). There will also be ashes available to pick up under the TV outside the church office. Like last year, we will also have a "drive thru" option from 7:00am-8:00am and 5:00pm-6:00pm. Lots of ways to get your ashes this year!

A few things about the liturgy will change in Lent. First, we will be moving to the ever-familiar Setting 4, but we'll stay in this setting through the Easter season! This way, we will experience the near entirety of that setting by singing the Lenten option for the Gospel Acclamation and the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy on us) during Lent, but move to "This is The Feast" and the Alleluias for the Gospel during Easter. We also plan to stop singing the Psalm for Lent, but will sing during the Prayers of the People.

During Lent we will also be bringing back Lenten Soup Suppers and midweek worship. Beginning on Wednesday, March 1st, we'll have Soup Suppers downstairs in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30pm. I am personally excited to see these Soup Suppers in action, as I have yet to experience this Redeemer tradition! We'll then sing Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer in the Parish Room (a Redeemer favorite!) from 7:00pm-7:30pm. Vicar Kelsey has also done a wonderful job in finding comparative and parallel readings from the Bible and other religious texts outside Lutheran Christianity. Please join us!

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

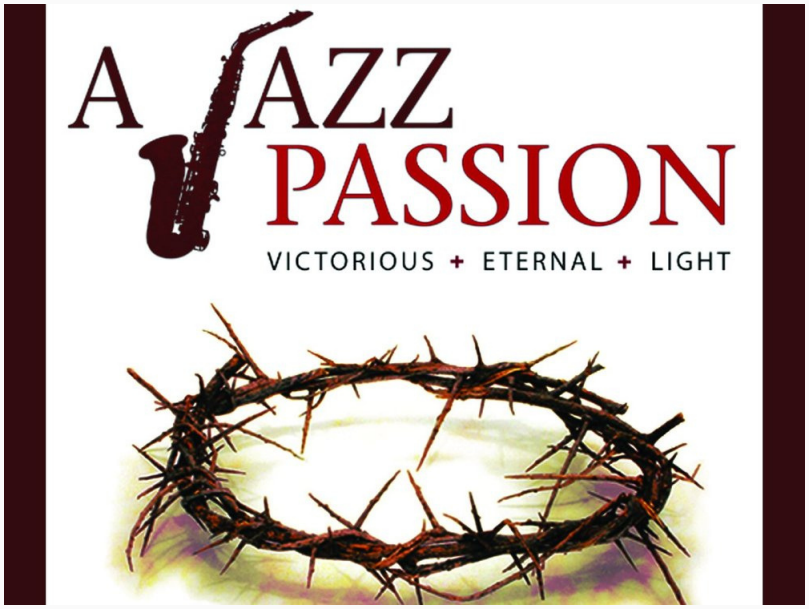
Redeemer's Festival Choir has been very hard at work preparing Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living. We are fortunate to have spent some time working with Albert Jackson, recently retired director of the South Holland Master Chorale, who has provided us with excellent insight and productive rehearsals. We will give a joint performance with Union's Chancel Choir at Union Church on March 12th at 3pm. The Requiem is a beautiful 40-minute piece and aside from the two choirs and organ, will include woodwinds, harp, and percussion. Please show your support for the choir and soloists Sal Garza and Erin Matonte by attending this moving performance.



Palm Sunday falls on April 2nd. Be prepared to process with palms at both 8:30am and 11:00am services! Redeemer's Maundy Thursday service is April 6th at 7pm followed by Good Friday on April 7th at 7pm. After such a warm and favored reception, the Good Friday Cantata this year is once again Lloyd Larson's The Shadow of the Cross. We had a good number of singers join the Good Friday Choir for this piece last year and I hope to see a similar turnout for rehearsals this March! There are three rehearsals and a dress rehearsal, all noted in the poster below. Please consider joining the choir for these beautiful settings of familiar Lenten hymns.

Easter Sunday is April 9th. We will once again be joined by Gargoyle Brass at both the 8:30am and 11:00am services. To prepare for this, we'd love some help decorating on Saturday, April 8th beginning at 10:00am. If you are interested in helping out, contact Graeme at music@redeemerhinsdale.org for more information.

Finally, Wednesday evening meals have largely been a success this year. Wednesday, May 10th will be a special end-of-the-year meal where we can talk about what has gone well and what can be improved for next year. Anyone who wants to come is invited; you do not need to have attended a Wednesday evening meal previously to enjoy the company of fellow congregation members over a good meal. As the date gets closer, you'll find information on how to RSVP for this meal.



A JAZZ PASSION: PRESENTED BY ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES

A performance of the Jazz Passion, including Redeemer member Andy Tecson, will take place on Sunday, March 19 at 4pm at St. Cletus Parish Center, 700 W. 55th St., LaGrange as part of the Ed Ward Fine Arts Series. Admission and parking are free. The cast and band will be conducted by Justin Sisul, and will include Bobby Lewis, Bobby Schiff, Victor Garcia, Stewart Miller, Bob Rummage, John Moulder, Geraldo D'Oliviera, Steve Eisen, Ken Jandes, Tim Coffman, John Blane, Dan MacDonald, Matt Bowker, Lisa Bowker, Kecia Waldschmidt, Gayle Bisesi, Jon Negus, Tramaine Parker, Mike Molloy, Keith Bertrand, Bill Balmer, Melissa Smithson.

In addition, a 30 minute program about a new studio video recording of the Jazz Passion on a show called "Sanctuary" produced by the Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministry will be broadcast at 12pm every Sunday in March through ABC's Localish digital television channel 7.2 and on these cable channels: Charter 608; Comcast Xfinity 217; Mediacom 723; RCN 618 and WOW! 219. After March the show will be posted on YouTube and can be found at the GCBM website (gcbm.org). The show features excerpts from a new simplified arrangement of the Jazz Passion for piano, four part choir (SATB), soloist and optional single wind instrument. The show is hosted by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago and includes interviews with Andy Tecson and Pastor David Abrahamson.

Education Updates

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH

VBS is Around the Corner!

Get excited about a new VBS experience! This summer we explore The **Mysteries of the Parables**. The evening opportunity offers a chance for all ages to gather for dinner, fun, and the chance to learn more about the stories that Jesus told. Bring your best sleuthing skills to Redeemer in the third full week of June. We meet Monday through Friday, on June 19 – 23 from 6pm-8pm, with a special Uniquely Thursday outing on June 22. Adults will get to participate in Amy Jill Levine's video series on the Parables while kids group up for games, scavenger hunts, and more. Come for dinner at 6 pm and stay through 8 pm. Registration opens online after Easter. Get these dates on your calendar and look forward to a wonderful opportunity to grow in the mystery and delight in following Christ together.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE CLASS

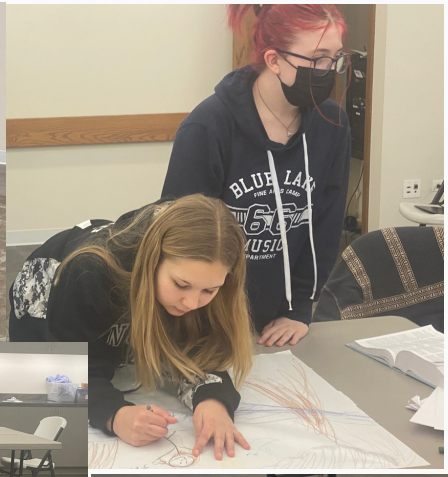
Calling all Third Graders and their families! On March 19th third graders and their parents will have an opportunity to take part in a class during Sunday School hour and to receive a Bible in worship either at 8:30 or 11. In the class parents and kids will play games, learn how to navigate the Bible, learn some of the cool features of the Spark Youth Bible (there are maps, a glossary, and **STICKERS**!), and practice family devotions. In worship parents will have an opportunity to live out the promise they made in their child's baptism, to "place in their hands the holy scriptures." Please let Pr. Katie know if you plan on attending!

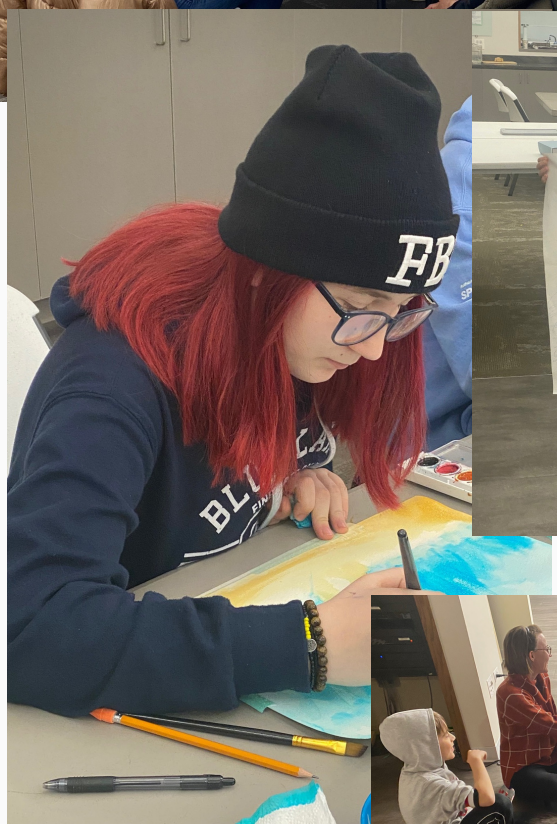
NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING UP MAY 7

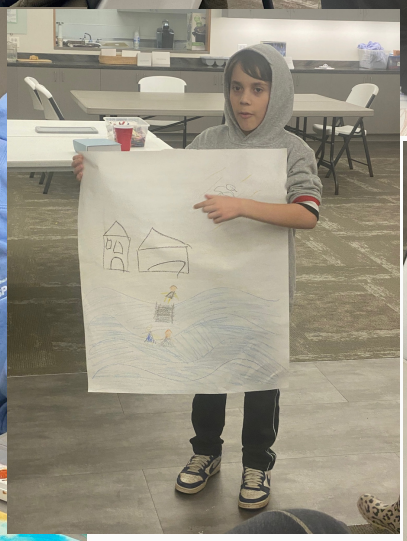
Redeemer is looking forward to receiving new members on Sunday May 7th at both services. If you would like to join Redeemer, let Pr. Katie know. We've conducted our new member class in a variety of ways and as we gauge interest and individual family needs we will come up with a time frame. We are looking forward to welcoming you!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Redeemer's Confirmation Classes continue this spring. Take a look at some of the fun we've had!







FOURTH GRADE COMMUNION CLASS

At Redeemer we offer a number of opportunities to learn about the sacraments. When children are in the 4th grade, whether or not they have already started communing, we offer a multi-part class where they learn with their families. This winter, five children, Veronica Gartner, Julia Procter, Caitlyn Reiley, Veronica and Victoria Zalik, took part in the class.

In our first session we read the story of the Last Supper and learned that communion is “for you.” Using Luther’s explanation of “our daily bread” in the Small Catechism we made collages of everything we receive from God as our daily sustenance.

In our second session we heard the story of the Passover and discussed why sharing a meal helps us remember God’s saving acts. We played elbow tag, remembering the importance of our connection to Christ’s love and played Passover Pictionary. As might have been expected, the kids were victorious over their parents.

In our third session we made communion bread and talked about the mystery of real presence (how Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine of communion). We acted out the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 and discussed how communion feeds us in many ways.

.

In our final session we focused on how communion empowers us to serve. We read about the early Christian community in Acts 2 and created our own ideal communities on paper. When tragedy struck (Snowstorm! Snakes!) we imagined how our communities might work together to overcome disaster. We ended our session taste testing non-blessed communion elements and talked about how to take communion in the context of the church service.

In four weeks we had a lot of fun together and learned a lot! Thanks to Redeemer for providing a place for children and families to learn and grow!

Redeemer Engaging Refugees (RER)

BY KRIS MAHON

REDEEMER ENGAGING REFUGEES UPDATE

The newly formed RER committee started out strong in January with 3 weeks of refugee education and a giving opportunity.

On January 8th, Keith Draper from **World Relief Chicagoland** spoke to 25 attendees at Adult Ed. He spoke about the current crisis with refugees and how his organization helps to settle refugees and how our church could help.

Jason Mohn from **Exodus World Services** was the adult education speaker on January 15th. There were approximately 20 attendees. Jason also gave a Temple Talk at both services. Jason explained the many programs volunteers can be part of at Exodus.

On January 22nd, an ethnic coffee hour was held in the Parish Room. Two committee members went into the city and purchased delicious ethnic food from local bakeries. Delicious! A panel discussion from current RER members included a video and questions from the attendees. There were about 15 people and the conversation was very informative and productive.

In the afternoon, a simulation called **Fleeing for Your Life** was presented by Exodus World Services. Redeemer had 20 participants from different age groups. It was educational for all as we learned what it's like to be forced to leave your home with little notice and flee to another country.

Redeemer members donated all items needed to complete an **Exodus Welcome to America Pack**. We will be able to turn an empty apartment into a home when we get the call that there is a new family in our area.

On February 12, a meeting was held for the congregation to join RER members to discuss the next steps which include:

- Investigate being a partner with another church already serving refugees
- Volunteer and build relationships with both Exodus and World Relief Chicagoland and others
- Tutoring at Redeemer possibly in future
- Follow up with congregation for a Refugee Sunday in June

NEW NEIGHBOR FOR YOUTH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

The RER committee learned over the last month that the biggest need at Exodus World Service is the need to help children. In this program, adult volunteers visit weekly for three months with an elementary/middle school student. Volunteers help increase academic skills and confidence through fun activities, and partner with refugee parents on how to support their child's learning. Materials are provided.

You can sign up online **HERE** if you are interested or call Kris Mahon for more information.

Easter Focus: Mental Health

BY SARA CHARLES

As part of our Easter focus on Mental Health this year, Redeemer is going to participate in **Walk the Walk for Mental Health**. In lieu of the 8:30am service on May 21st, Redeemer members can meet at the Community House at 9am and walk to fundraise for a very important cause. We will also staff a Celebration Station along the route, where we can cheer on participants and splash them with color!

The 16th Annual Walk the Walk for Mental Health is not your average walk, it is a one-mile Color Walk, which celebrates mental and physical wellness, access to mental health services, and ending the stigma associated with talking about our mental health with our friends, family and community. May 21 is your opportunity to #StepUp, #WalktheWalk and raise money in support of equitable access to mental health services at The Community House, where they provide life-changing mental health services to children, youth, young adults, and their families on a sliding scale. No one is turned away because of their inability to pay.

Sign up to join Redeemer's Walk team today! Click **HERE** for the sign up!

Church and Community Updates

BY MARY LANDIS

RECYCLING EVENT

Watch for information on the April 15th Community Recycling Event in Redeemer's parking lot. Hinsdale Unitarian Church and Union Church of Hinsdale will also participate. There will be a SHRED TRUCK! Quilters would like used sheets and pillow cases. SCARCE will be there, so save those used books, crayons, and vinyl records. Bikes, medical equipment (commodes, walkers, canes etc.) Watch for a more extensive list as we get closer.

Spiritual Care Visitor Training

BY BISHOP ANDERSON HOUSE

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL CARE VISITOR

Are you looking to deepen your spiritual life? Do you have a heart for helping others, offering a comforting presence? If so, please consider becoming a Spiritual Care Visitor for Redeemer by taking part in the Bishop Anderson House Spiritual Care Visitor Training program. Missy Roberts and Ina Alikan are among Redeemer's members who have taken part in the training and have served as Spiritual Care Visitors for Redeemer.

Their next session begins with an in-person retreat on Saturday, March 25th at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. All other sessions take place on line. If you feel the Spirit's pull or would like to know more, please give Pr. Katie a call! Click **HERE** for a more in depth look.

Winter Adult Ed

BY WILL SWENSON

DR. KURT HENDEL AT REDEEMER

We welcomed back Dr. Kurt Hendel from LSTC for his traditional pre-Lenten teaching series at Redeemer! For four weeks he focused on Christian antisemitism, particularly on Luther's writings and on the Shoah (the Holocaust and it's implications). The series will concludes with the ever popular "Fireside Chat" on February 19th where you get to ask Kurt any questions you might have about Luther, theology, the modern church or anything else! See you Sunday!

Retirement Reception for Cindy Cimo

BY JEN MOELLER

CELEBRATING CINDY!

Please join us in celebrating Cindy Cimo's Retirement on Sunday, April 2 in the Parish Room between services. Cindy has served as office manager for Redeemer for the past eight years with such dedication, vision and warmth!

It has been Redeemer's tradition to give the congregation an opportunity to show their appreciation through giving a financial gift. All are welcome to send in their gifts marked "Cindy's Retirement Gift" starting in March.

Volunteers are needed to donate time setting up and cleaning up the Parish Room, bringing in pastries, cookies, fruit, lemonade, juice, cheese and crackers, mini egg salad and ham sandwiches, etc.

Please e-mail us with how you can help and join the celebration!
Camille Pryber - cpryber@hotmail.com
Jen Moeller - jenmoeller1@comcast.net
Marge Chapello - mchapello@comcast.net

Mission Outreach Updates

BY MARIE MCGANN

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has provided a link where you may contribute funds to provide immediate aid to the earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria. LWR will provide water, medical care, shelter and essential supplies with the donations received.
Click **HERE** to donate.

FOOD DRIVE

Mission Outreach is hosting a Love Your Neighbor Food Drive to benefit the Hinsdale Community Services (HCS) food pantry. Donations will be collected in the soup can shaped bin located under the Mission Outreach bulletin board in the upstairs hallway between February 14th and 28th. Items especially needed include peanut butter, jelly/jam, ready-to-eat canned soup, canned tuna and chicken, hot breakfast items, bar soap, body wash, dish soap and laundry detergent. Paper grocery bags are also needed. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

RECYCLING EVENT

On Saturday, April 15 from 9am-12pm, Mission Outreach will be participating in the Recycling Event to be held in Redeemer's parking lot. Volunteers will be on hand to collect new/gently used bedsheets and sewing thread for our Quilters. (No white sheets please!)

HINSDALE COMMUNITY HOUSE MENTAL HEALTH WALK

Mission Outreach will be participating in the Community House Mental Health Walk on Sunday morning, May 21st. Further information will be available closer to the time of the event.

THANK YOU FROM LOVE INC!

Thank you to everyone who purchased Home Run Inn pizzas during Love, Inc's fundraiser! Home Run Inn donated 30% of the proceeds to Love, Inc. (one of our Mission partners) to help support their work in DuPage County.

Program Assistant Search Update

BY SUE GRAUNKE

The proposed “Program Administrator” job description was approved by the Church Council at their January meeting. The two primary focus areas of this new position will be Christian Education and Congregational Life/Fellowship with supporting responsibilities in technology and administration. The job description has now been posted on Redeemer’s website **HERE**, as well as on a variety of job search platforms.

We are grateful for the congregation’s support and ask for continued prayers as the search process for this important leadership position moves forward.

Program Administrator Search Committee
Sarah Charles, Sue Graunke, Steve Patterson, Mark Rosland, Pastor Katie

Office Manager Search Update

BY JULIE SCHWAB

After eight years in the position of Office Manager here at Redeemer, Cindy Cimo is retiring on Thursday, March 30th. We will all miss Cindy's welcoming presence, kind words, and professionalism in the office. A celebration of her years of service is being planned for Sunday April 2nd.

In the meantime, a search committee has been formed, the job description completed and the position has been posted. We hope to hire a replacement by mid-March to allow for overlap with Cindy. Please contact Gail McCarthy, Julie Schwab, Laura Antinossi or Steve Selcke if you have questions / concerns or recommendations / referrals!

Congregational Meeting

SAVE THE DATE! REDEEMER'S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Redeemer’s Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Join us for a Hybrid Worship/Congregational Meeting at 11:00am in the Sanctuary. Please plan on attending as we will be voting on the new budget and the new nominees for the church council.

Note the time change for the meeting is due to Redeemer’s participation in the Mental Health “Walk the Walk” event at The Community House that same morning at 9:00am.

Faithful Gardeners

BY CONNIE BOTHEN

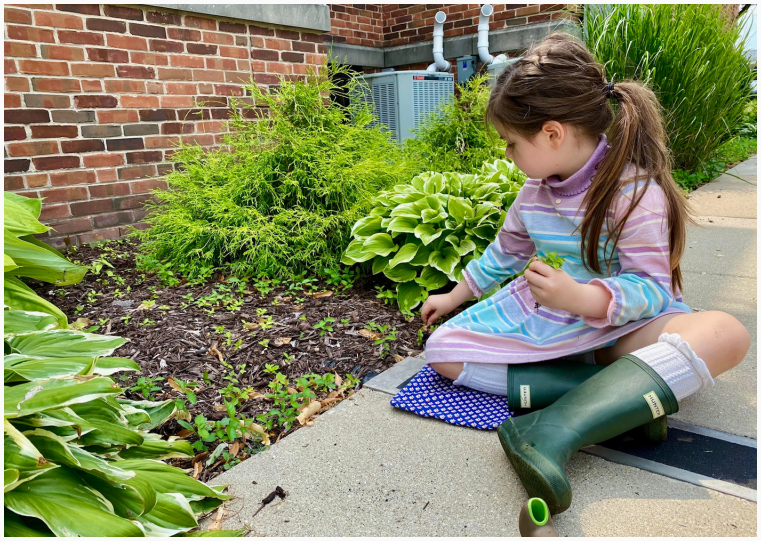
SPRING SEASON STARTS MAY 13!

All help is welcome to keep our Redeemer gardens beautiful and welcoming. Redeemer's Faithful Gardeners meet the second Saturday of each month. 8:00-9:00am We meet the third Saturday if there is a rain out.

We do light weeding, clean up, and watering.

Next gardening dates:

May 13
June 10
July 8
August 12
September 9



If you cannot make the group work days, contact Connie Bothen for a space to work on when you have time. A yard waste bag is kept open in the garbage closet.

Current gardeners, gardening Saturdays or on their own time are:

Connie and Tom Bothen, South and West, on our own time
Bruce Forbush, rock areas
Pat Quast, East
Pastor Linnea, North, on own time
Natalie and Iris, North, on own time
Gwen Entsminger, West/North, on own time
Pat Quast could use help on the East side ,

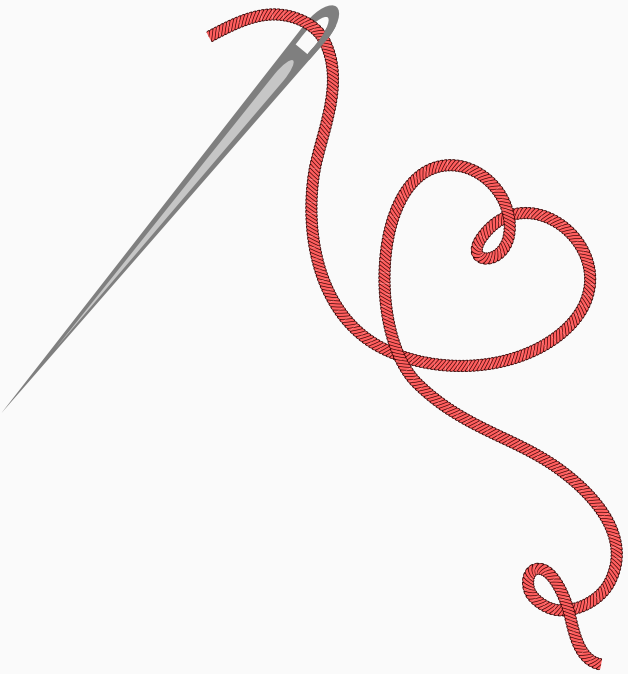
We also need help with twig and trash pick up
Please consider helping when you can.

Thank you to all our gardeners who give their time and energy to keep our grounds tidy!

Redeemer Quilters

BY CONNIE BOTHEN

QUILT SUNDAY IS APRIL 2



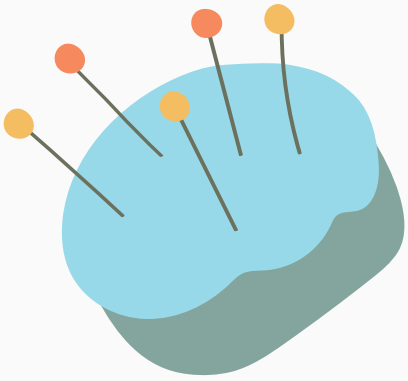
Quilts will be on display Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Quilts are available for purchase, $40. Pay a quilter or in the church office.

Donations accepted, all funds go for purchase of batting, fabric, and machine repair.

Volunteers are always needed to help on Wednesday mornings in the Fellowship Room and drivers to take quilt boxes to Elgin for shipping to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in Maryland.

More information? Talk to a quilter!



Financial Update

BY KIM ENDERS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN 2022-23 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW

Redeemer's second quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal year ended on December 31, 2022, and Redeemer achieved a Net Income of $51,457. This is a great turnaround from the first quarter deficit of $6,880. Offerings were up in each of the three months of the quarter, and in particular December. Expenses were also less than expected. Expenses for the year to date were 92% of the budgeted amount. We don't foresee any extraordinary expenses.

The church continues to stand in a strong financial position. The Balance Sheet shows total Equity figures at $1,299,274. As a percentage of Total Assets, the second quarter-end year to date distribution was as follows: $686,541, 52.8%, in Restricted Funds, $371,942, 28.6%, in Special Designated Purpose Funds, and $240,791, 18.5%, in Unrestricted/Undesignated Funds. We have 5.22 months of cash reserves at the current expense rate. This amount of Unrestricted Funds is about the average amount that we have held in the recent past. Recent market fluctuations have had the effect of reducing overall equity, and in particular, the Unrestricted/Undesignated funds.

2022-23 Second Quarter Financial Results Summary:

Through Dec. 31, 2022	Revenue (All Sources)	Expenses	Net Surplus/Deficit
July 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022	$328,448	$276,991	+$51,457
July 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021	$333,917	$290,996	+$42,921
2022-23% of Budget	57.1%	47.0%	
2022-23 Total Budget	$575,600	$589,516	
Total Assets	$1,299,274		

The Stewardship campaign kicked off at the end of October, on Reformation Sunday when we celebrated Redeemer's 100th Anniversary. To date we are showing 77 pledges recorded for a total of $467,477.00. The goal of the committee is to achieve 100 pledges! There is still time to pledge for anyone who wishes to do so. We hope our members will be inspired to "give generously to support the work of Christ." We can still hit that 100 pledge mark!

Kim Enders, Treasurer

2023 Endowment Grant Applications Available

BY LINDA CARPENTER

REDEEMER COVENANT ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

Redeemer's Covenant Endowment Fund through the years, has steadily grown in value. As of December of 2022, the Fund had a value of approximately $684,000.

Early in the year, the Council, acting in accordance with the Bylaws and on the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, determines what percentage of the Fund's value can prudently be made available for distribution to support Redeemer's various ministries and ministry areas.

Each year Redeemer's Endowment offers grants for support of mission outside of Redeemer, to support the building and other capital assets, and to support other ministries of Redeemer. Endowment monies do not replace budgeted expenses and cannot go to ongoing expenses (like salaries). Any member of Redeemer can apply for grant monies. The Council, with the assistance of the ministry committees, decides on any endowment disbursements.

Endowment grant applications are due March 15, 2023. Applications can be picked up in the church office. Total dollars available for grants are $20,000.

Council encourages members to use this money as a catalyst for engagement. Examples might include setting up a matching fund for gifts given by Redeemer members to a ministry partner, starting a new ministry with potential to reach community members, and expanding an existing ministry to involve more church members than previously served.

Endowment grants allow the church an opportunity to take risks, grow ministries, and get more people involved. The Council encourages congregation members to be creative, to dream, and to propose something that, when accomplished, will excite others.

Grant application will be reviewed by Council at their April meeting. Awards will be announced no later than May 1st.

If you have questions or want to know more, please feel free to contact Pr. Katie or Council President Dave Mahon.

Church News and Updates

BY CINDY CIMO

Losses in the Church Family

JUDITH ANN TUMBARELLO

Judith Ann Ziegenbein was born on October 23, 1939. She grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois living with her two sisters, mother and grandmother. She graduated from Maine Township High School in 1957 and then went to beautician school. She married her husband, Tony Tumbarello, of sixty-two years in 1960 and worked as a beautician before settling down to be a stay at home mother, raising her four children (Timothy Tumbarello, Thomas Tumbarello, Terrence Tumbarello, and Patricia (Tumbarello) Rosland).

Judy loved spending time with family, traveling, swimming, going to the beach, doing puzzles, and reading romance novels. Judy especially loved family vacations and while Florida was a frequent destination, they also went to Colorado, Yellowstone National Park, Washington DC, and many more places. She enjoyed collecting bells and dolls. Judy and her husband, Tony, spent their “empty nest” years traveling between their three homes, their house in Bensenville, Illinois, the lake house in Fall River, Wisconsin and their beautiful condominium in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

The funeral service was held at Redeemer on January 7, 2023.

PASTOR DENNIS BUSHKOFSKY

The Rev. Dennis L. Bushkofsky, 64, of Henryville, Pa., died at home Feb. 2 following a brief period of hospice care. A funeral service was held on Saturday, Feb. 11, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fish Hill Road, Tannersville, Pa.

In his ministry, Pastor Bushkofsky served parishes in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Illinois. A memorial service is also scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. at United Lutheran Church, Oak Park, Ill., his most recent call, where he served 10 years before going on disability in mid-2022. During his time there, he was active in the Community of Congregations, an interfaith organization serving Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding communities.

Between 2003 and 2011, Pastor Bushkofsky's ministry was devoted to intentional interim assignments: Holy Cross, Wheaton; St. Paul, Evanston; Messiah, Wauconda; Lord of Life, Schaumburg; United, Oak Park; Redeemer, Hinsdale; Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield; and Edgebrook, Chicago.

Throughout his career, Pastor Bushkofsky was an editor and writer of liturgical materials and an educator in the adult catechumenate movement.

Born July 15, 1958, in Oelwein, Iowa, he is survived by his wife, Linda Post Bushkofsky, their daughter Judy Jackson and son Jayden Jackson, granddaughters Jordyn Jackson and Alexandria Mauricio, his mother and his brother.

He was a graduate of Luther College (Decorah, Iowa), the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Seminary), and Saint John's University (Collegeville, Minn.).

Church Marriage

Lindsey Taylor and Benjamin Selcke were united in marriage on December 10, 2022.

Lindsey and Ben are pictured with their daughter, Jordan. Parents are Kathy and Steve Selcke.

Baptism

Angelo Mickey Iantosca was baptized on December 4, 2022. Parents are Angela and Scott Iantosca.

Time to Spring Ahead

Daylight Saving time begins at 2:00am on Sunday, March 12. Spring ahead time change – remember to set your clock forward one hour!

2023 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your new offering envelopes from the table in the Narthex. Thank you for saving us postage!

Redeemer Photo Directories have Arrived

Our long awaited photo directories are here! Each family is asked to take just one photo directory. Please take the directory with your name on the label from the table in the narthex.

Easter Flower Orders

Easter Flower Order

We are ordering from Vern Goers Greenhouse in Hinsdale.
Leave order forms with payment in the church office, or mail it to:
Redeemer Lutheran Church
139 East First Street, Hinsdale 60521
The deadline to order plants is noon on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

Please reserve the following plants:

_____ Lilies ($15) _____ Red or Pink Azaleas ($22)

_____ Blue or Pink Hydrangeas ($28) _____ Blue or Pink Hyacinth ($12)

_____ Pink, Yellow, or Lavender Tulips ($12)

Pick Up _____ Leave for Donation _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Make checks payable to *Redeemer Lutheran Church* (write *Easter Flowers* in memo)

Easter Flower Order forms are now available. Follow the instructions on the form. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Healthy Spiritual Journey

BY LANNY WILSON

THE MYSTERIOUS CLOUD OF WITNESSES

To experience the mysterious, it seems that we have to be willing to let go of certainty and be willing to allow our imaginations and our instincts to guide us. Those of us who have faith in God enter a world of mystery every time we pray or enter into a worship experience. Physicians, practicing the art and science of medicine, know that there is only so much control we have in helping our patients return to fullness of life after a serious injury or illness. Science has helped us develop lifesaving medicines and amazing surgical procedures, but the mysterious power of healing is often beyond our control. Sometimes our patients die despite our best efforts; sometimes we witness complete healing when we thought that our best efforts would not be good enough. In some ways, religious faith is similar to the art and science of medicine – both beautiful to experience in the fullness of their mystery.

One of the meaningful mysteries of faith in my life is addressed in the book of Hebrews, in the second testament of the Christian Bible. There the writer addresses a "great cloud of witnesses" when he speaks about the champions of faith who came before the audience he addressed. My question for that theologian, and to you my audience, is: "Who are the great cloud of witnesses today?"

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science."

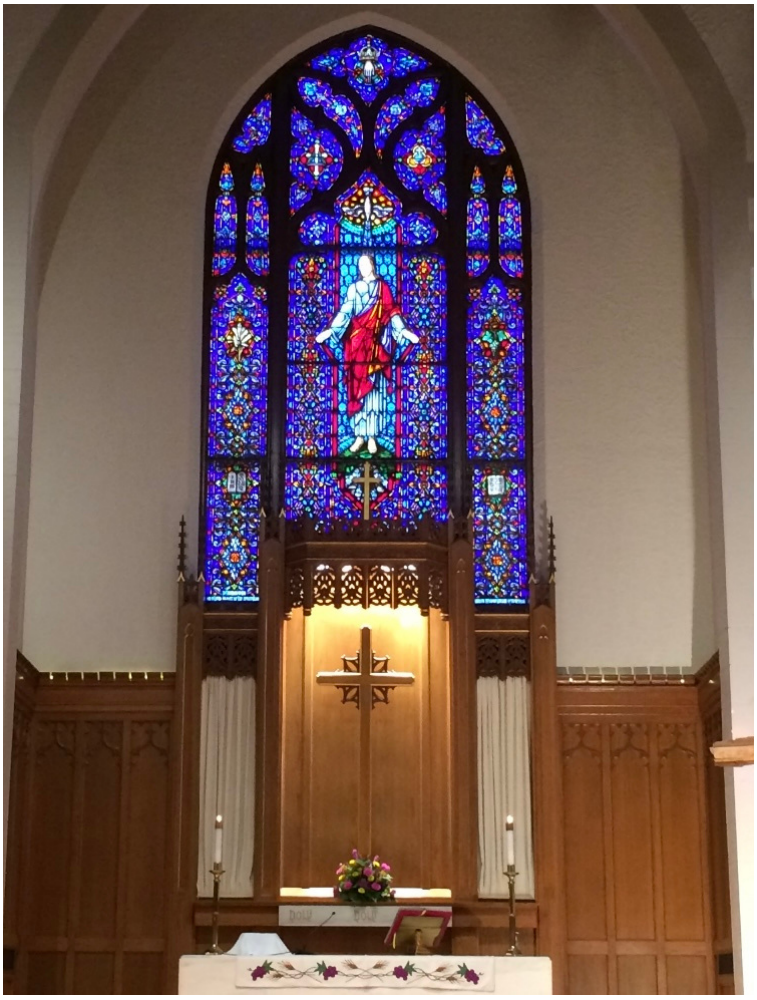
- Albert Einstein

Are they our ancestors – especially the ones who introduced us to God? Are they the people we can still remember who have died and we feel have gone to heaven? Are they our guardian angel(s)? Are there guardian angels? How about the leaders who have helped humanity progress in positive ways? How about people such as the apostles, Mary Mother of God, the evangelist Paul, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr? What mysterious wonders are this great cloud of witnesses performing in our lives or in our world today – in some cases, even centuries after their deaths?

What our ancestors, known and unknown, can do for us now is certainly a mystery; even so, I find myself addressing them most mornings and quite often throughout the day. As I awaken, I often go through a litany of names, including friends and relatives whom I can remember. I don't pray to them. I simply say hello and wish them well. Somehow, I feel that they are with me in mysterious ways. In fact, some of my decisions are made because, in an odd sort of way, I want them to be proud of the work that I am doing. As a child, I was reminded to do the right thing because God was watching. I still believe that; but I also believe that there is a great cloud of witnesses present with us, in some mysterious way. Maybe they are within the Holy Spirit and are helpers from the spirit world.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses..."

- Hebrews 12:1a



The mysterious is difficult to understand, explain, or identify. I thank God for it because mystery opens up a beautiful world of possibilities, fueled by our imaginations and our beliefs. Albert Einstein suggested that it is the source of all true art and science. Indeed, it is also at the heart of most religious practices – where our mysterious cloud of witnesses may have helped to guide us for thousands of years. Maybe each of us will be one of those witnesses someday. I don't know. It is a mystery after all!

In God's Love,

Lanny F. Wilson, MD

LENT WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP DURING LENT
Sunday Services are @ 8:30am & 11:00am*

Wednesday Night Services are @ 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday

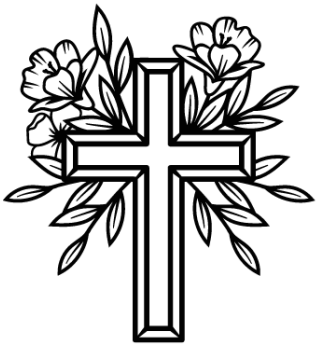
WORSHIP
February 22nd
12:00pm
7:00pm*

DRIVE-THRU ASHES
February 22nd
7:00am-8:00am
5:00pm-6:00pm

Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 6th
7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY
April 7th
7:00pm*



Easter

WORSHIP
April 9th
8:30am & 11:00am*

EASTER EGG HUNT
9:45am-10:45am

*Hybrid worship

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT **REDEEMERHINSDALE.ORG**