

# Redeemer Record



## SR PASTOR'S COLUMN

It is precisely because bad things happen to good people that Jesus came to live among us. He came to show us the bad things can be overcome by the goodness of the Lord.

*Read More on Page 2*

## LENT PREVIEW

Throughout Lent there will be a myriad of activities to aid us in living into the season. Ash Wednesday begins a time of reflection and stewardship of our natural surroundings.

*Read More on Page 12*

## RENEWING WORSHIP

Property has some exciting new projects on the horizon, including some needed updates to our sanctuary.

*Read More on Page 18*

# Senior Pastor's Column

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH



Last week I taught confirmation, our formation program for 6th–8th grade. The kids didn't hold back on the substitute teacher. They asked me:

## “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

The kids know. The loving mom gets cancer. The kind dad loses his job. The faithful spouse struggles with addiction. The hard-working teen fails the test. Everyone dies. Bad things happen. But that doesn't mean bad things get the last word. I told the kids there are three reasons bad things happen. And that for each one of them the church has a plan.

### **Sometimes bad things happen because we sin.**

When (not if) we sin, the church teaches us to confess and to repent. We practice this in our liturgy every Sunday, just as worship starts, in our time of Confession. Practice makes us ready to admit our mistakes in life.

### **Sometimes bad things happen because we are sinned against.**

When we are sinned against the church teaches us to forgive. Weekly we pray the Lord's prayer saying, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We remember that though others hurt us we hurt others too. Forgiveness (with healthy boundaries!) offers a way forward.

### **Sometimes bad things just happen.**

Natural disasters, accidents, life events that just are unfair all happen too. I asked the kids what we do at Redeemer when they happen. “Bring soup,” one kid said. “Make quilts and school kits,” said another. “Pray,” offered a third. “Just sit with someone,” added one more. All good answers.



**Bad things happen. But that doesn't mean bad things get the last word.**

It is precisely because bad things happen to good people that Jesus came to live among us. Jesus came to be with us. He came to show us the bad things can be overcome by the goodness of the Lord. To bring resurrection from the cross and past the tomb; to transform all our suffering and sorrow into everlasting joy.

**You are invited** to practice your faith here at Redeemer this Lent so that you too can know what to do when bad things happen. Join us for Sunday Worship at 8:45 (for a short service) and 11AM (for our festival worship). Read 40 Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer in small groups or join us for Theology on Tap at a local pub. We will take a field trip to Bronzeville with a Chicago historian and will do a service project for our mission partners at Night Ministry. Join us for Soup Supper and Midweek Worship Wednesday nights. The confirmation class will be there.

Check out our website  
[www.redeemerhinsdale.org](http://www.redeemerhinsdale.org)  
and read this newsletter for more details.

**You are invited to practice your faith at Redeemer this Lent so that you too can know what to do when bad things happen.**

Through it all, remember - **Easter is coming** - that first full moon might be a little later than usual, but its rise is inevitable! Join us **April 20th at 8:30 and 11AM** for worship and stay for the **Pancake Breakfast** benefiting the Youth Mission Trip between services.

Together we will witness God's goodness overcoming all the bad things, bringing us new life.

Through it all, good and bad, God is with us. For that we can confidently say:

Thanks be to God!

**It is precisely because bad things happen to good people that Jesus came to live among us. Jesus came to be with us. He came to show us the bad things can be overcome by the goodness of the Lord.**



# Associate Pastor's Column

BY PASTOR KELSEY JOHNSON



## Reaching Outward, Bearing Fruit

Last week in Confirmation class, I gave a crash course in what it means to be Lutheran.

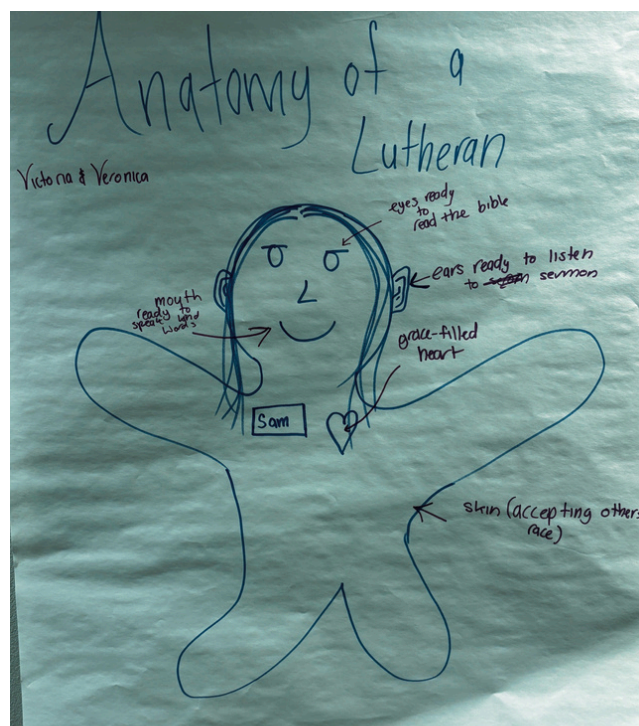
We took a look at the beliefs we had listed on the Redeemer website, as well as our welcome statement. We read about the ELCA, and heard about the life of Martin Luther. We even took out a copy of the Book of Concord and went through the small catechism.

At the end of the lesson, I asked our middle schoolers what about Lutheranism resonates with them. "I love that we are open to caring for all sorts of people, and don't turn people away at communion," said one. Another chimed in, "It really seems like we try to be kind, but not in a fake way. Our faith is relevant."

I then had them draw a 'Lutheran person', labeling at least 5 things that they see as 'distinct' to our faith community.



Outside of the sense of humor and creative liberties only middle schoolers can dream up: (making their person an alien; coming up with names like Sam and... well, Jennifer, who has a set of hashtags for her personal brand and wears high heels), their answers were insightful and reassuring that Lutheran values aren't just things we proclaim. They call us to bear witness to Christ in the world to make it a better place. On their pictures, alongside the goofiness, were things like "strong shoulders to carry others, a mouth to speak kind words and share beliefs, and hands to help the world in need."

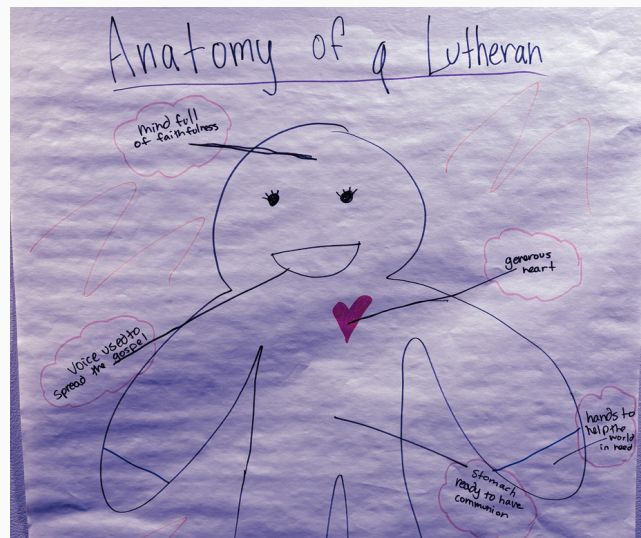


I'll let you guess which one was my example.

These are attributes that not only exist in our church, but are all oriented towards embodying Christ to a world in hurt and turmoil. There is something profoundly reassuring about our middle schoolers understanding their part in this, and noting that these are the parts that make us Lutherans Lutheran.

What does your Lutheran ‘person’ look like? What are some ways you are engaged in sharing the love and grace of Christ in our community and world? What are some ways you’d like to grow?

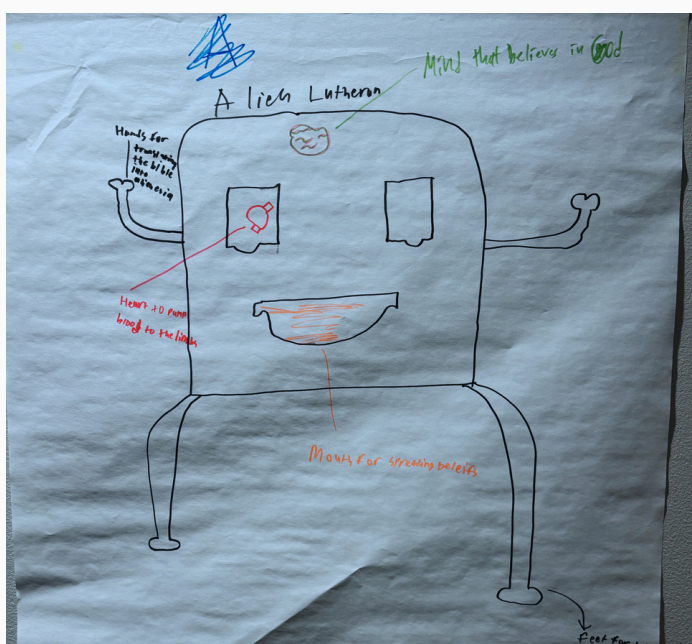
It might be a fun practice to draw your own as you reflect on the beginning of Lent.



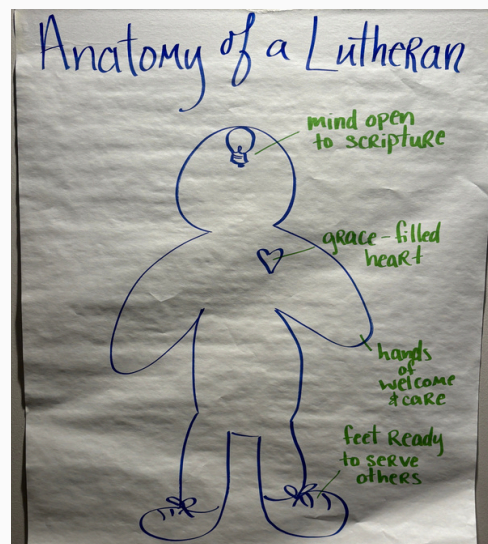
Bonhoeffer’s mouth spoke with conviction, his hands reached out to the oppressed and suffering, and his heart knew God’s message of grace and care for all was not at the center of the reality he was living in.

During Lent, we will be following a 40 day devotional that invites us into Bonhoeffer’s writings and life so we might reflect on how to deepen and embody our Lutheran faith in the world today.

Please join our communities of worship, small group, and learning throughout Lent, and journey with us into this time of reorienting Christ at the center of our lives, knowing the hope and redemption of Easter is because Christ first centered each of us.



Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who was grounded in his conviction that the Nazis were committing unjust acts and oppressing groups of people. When many Lutherans bent to and enabled the Nazi regime, Bonhoeffer and several other theologians spoke up, organized The Confessing Church, and took action. Rooted in the gospel, Bonhoeffer remained firm in the conviction that Christian faith was “not meant to be at the periphery of life hidden behind the walls of a church,” but rather, “God must be recognized at the center of life, not when we are at the end of our resources.”(Letters and Papers from Prison, Bonhoeffer)



# ENCHANTED CASTLE

1103 S. Main St, Lombard 60148

[www.enchanted.com](http://www.enchanted.com)

# ULTIMATE LOCK-IN

sponsored by the metro  
Chicago synod, ELCA

save the date, middle and high  
schoolers!!

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH  
10:00PM - 5:00AM

GOKARTS, LASER TAG, MINI GOLF,  
BUMPER CARS, ESCAPE ROOM!

# Music & Worship

BY GRAEME SHIELDS



## CHRISTMAS REVIEW and THANKS

A belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Redeemer! We couldn't have done it without the musicians, ushers, decorators, assisting ministers, altar guild, acolytes, communion assistants, readers, and everyone else who had a hand in bringing those December services together. I was very pleased to be accompanied by two teenagers (Leah Simpson, soprano and Jack Polacek, trumpet) for \*every\* Christmas Eve service that Redeemer offered.

We also had such a full cantata Sunday in December that I'm not sure we could have fit a single extra musician in the balcony. 18 singers, a bell choir (and all the bells and bell tables), a brass quintet, and two little voices from Children's Choir made for one \*very\* full balcony.



# THANKS



Reconciling In Christ (RIC) SUNDAY was celebrated with an internal message from Pr. Kelsey, a moving anthem from Festival Choir, and (of course) cupcakes from Jennivee’s Bakery and goodies from the RIC Committee.

The last Sunday before Lent, March 2nd, we celebrated the Transfiguration with Andy Tecson’s Jazz Mass led by a 6-piece jazz band with Festival Choir. This music helped usher in the liturgy for the Lenten season – the Gospel-heavy Setting 6.



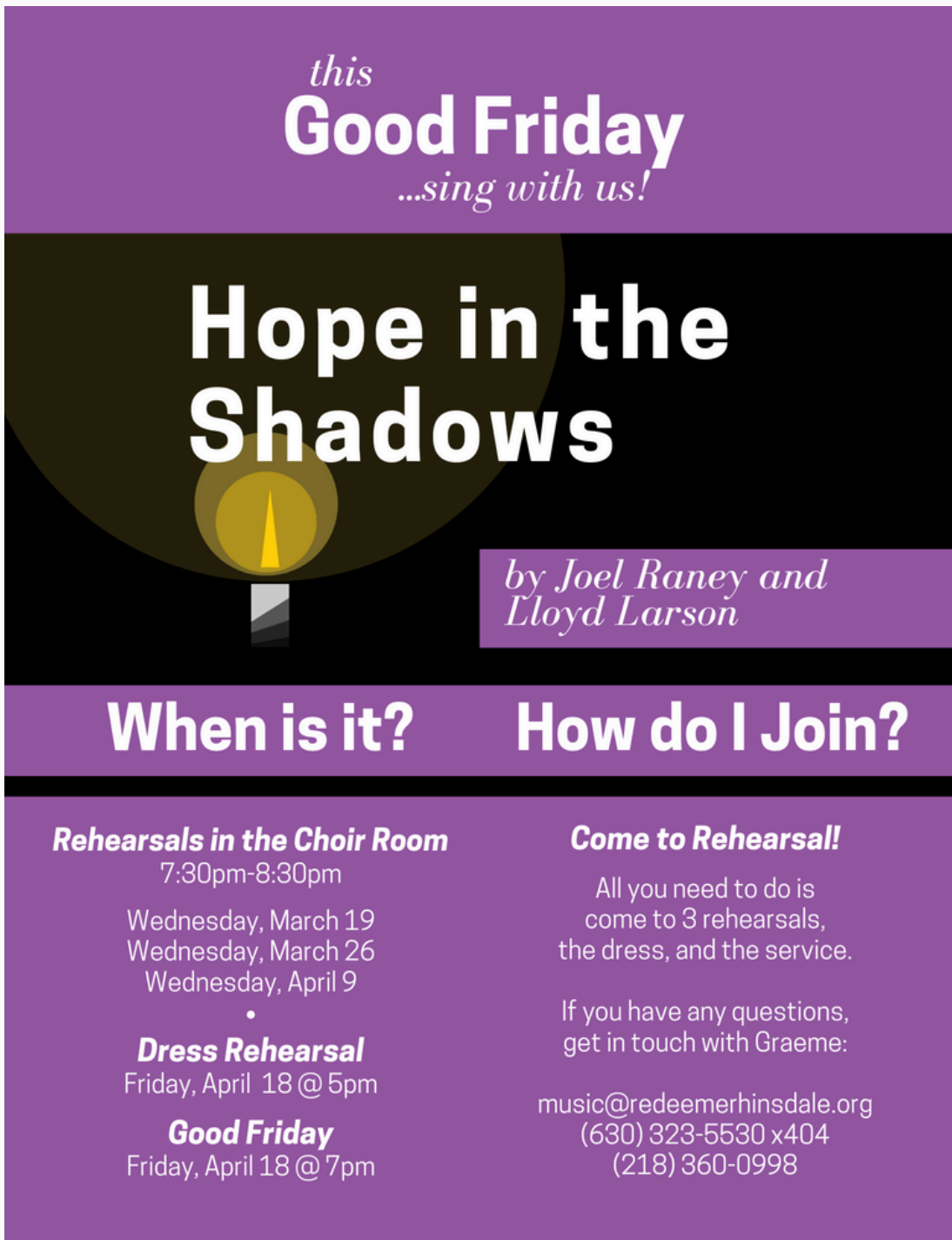
## **LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP: FINDING HOPE IN A DIVIDED WORLD**

We’re finding hope with each of our senses this Lent. Join us each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm for readings from the bible and Bonhoeffer’s writings, communion, and singing together. Services will usually be in the Parish Room and will make good use of space for meditation practices centered each week around a different sense. Some interesting highlights include using instruments to “shake loose heavy burdens” and using taste to reflect on sources of joy and conflict. Find Hope with us by looking, feeling, and listening for it this Lent.



## HOPE IN THE SHADOWS

Join Festival Choir in articulating this year's Good Friday Cantata Hope in the Shadows by Joel Raney and Lloyd Larson. Come to three rehearsals on Wednesdays March 19th, 26th and April 9th from 7:30pm-8:30pm to sing with the choir.



*this*  
**Good Friday**  
*...sing with us!*

# Hope in the Shadows

*by Joel Raney and  
Lloyd Larson*

When is it?	How do I Join?
<p><b>Rehearsals in the Choir Room</b> 7:30pm-8:30pm</p> <p>Wednesday, March 19 Wednesday, March 26 Wednesday, April 9</p> <p>•</p> <p><b>Dress Rehearsal</b> Friday, April 18 @ 5pm</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b> Friday, April 18 @ 7pm</p>	<p><b>Come to Rehearsal!</b></p> <p>All you need to do is come to 3 rehearsals, the dress, and the service.</p> <p>If you have any questions, get in touch with Graeme:</p> <p>music@redeemerhinsdale.org (630) 323-5530 x404 (218) 360-0998</p>

## MEET DENNIS!



Dennis is a recently hired tenor section leader who has been singing with Festival Choir since February. (You may have noticed him singing from the balcony on a Sunday morning!) He is a veterinarian technician by day and a joy to have in choir rehearsals by night. We're glad he and Sal will be singing with us this Spring! Come get to know him by joining our rehearsals for the Good Friday cantata.

## EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday is on April 20th at 8:30am and 11:00am. We will be joined by Gargoyle Brass and Festival Choir.



## EASTER DECORATION HELP

Finally, we'll need decoration help on April 19th beginning at 10am. Please get in touch with Graeme at [music@redeemerhinsdale.org](mailto:music@redeemerhinsdale.org) if you're interested in hanging butterflies with our pulley system, draping the cross, or flooring Easter flowers.



# What Time is Worship?

BY PASTOR KATIE



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## **STARTING MARCH 9TH WE ARE GOING TO RETURN TO TWO SUNDAY SERVICES 8:45AM AND 11:00AM**

Some of you might be wondering why the changes?

This winter we tried out an experiment of having just one worship service at 10AM. We did this for a few reasons. Many of our members travel to warmer states during the winter. Some worship from home avoiding ice and snow during the season. Scheduling worship volunteers can be tricky and one service let us consolidate volunteers. Smaller services in the winter can feel a little empty – which is not particularly welcoming to newcomers. It can also be fun to be all gathered in one place for a season. It allows all our members to be together on the first day of the week. Many people really liked the change. A few people did not like the new time. But we did find that it was good to experiment. So much that we decided to do it again.

**Starting March 9th - the first Sunday of Lent - we will be trying something new.**

**Our Sunrise Service will be at 8:45AM.** This service will be shorter than our services usually are (we are planning on 45 minutes) which is why it's starting a little later than usual (keeps us honest). It will still include the weekly sermon as well as communion, but will have less liturgy, no children's sermon, and no special music. This service will not be live-streamed. This service is specifically for early risers, those with other Sunday morning commitments, and folks who like a quieter service.

**Our Festival Worship will be at 11AM.** This service will follow the usual pattern of worship, will include all the readings and hymns as well as special music and children's time and will be live-streamed. Sunday School and Childcare will be offered for children 11 and under during this time. This service will be about an hour long. This service is for those who like the fuller version of worship, who like to sleep in a little on Sundays, and who like the feeling of being together on Sundays.

**Adult Education on Sundays will be from 9:45-10:45 between service times.**

**During Lent (March 5th - April 9th) we will have Midweek Worship Wednesdays at 7PM.** This service will not repeat the readings or sermon of Sunday but will be a separate experience that includes more interactive elements as well as weekly communion. This service is a half hour long.

**Easter Worship will be at 8:30 and 11AM on April 20th.**

Both services will be Festival Worship.

At the end of April we hope to evaluate all of our worshipping experiences. As we think about receiving the gifts of Word and Sacrament, our welcome to newcomers and children, opportunities for volunteers and the flow of adult education and fellowship time, with your help and input we hope to come up with new plans for the fall.

However you choose to worship, at our **Sunrise Service - Sundays at 8:45AM**, our **Festival Worship Sundays at 11AM**, or **Midweek Worship Wednesdays at 7PM** - we look forward to sharing Word and Sacrament with you!

# 2025 Lenten Programming



## 2025 LENTEN THEME

This year's Lenten theme will be "Finding Hope in a Divided World: A Lenten Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer." In times of great division, it can be useful to figures from the past who demonstrated what it means to live as a faithful disciple of Christ. During this Lenten season, we will explore the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned ethicist and victim of Hitler's Nazi regime. This theme will be explored through small group book studies, field trips, documentary screenings, special Adult Forum speakers, Wednesday night worship, and much more!



## SOUP SUPPERS RETURN

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. Please note that you do not need to arrive right at 5:30pm. You and your family can come and go whenever works best for you. There will be vegetarian and gluten-free options available. There will even be some special discussions (check the dates below)

## LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Join us each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm for readings from the bible and Bonhoeffer's writings, communion, and singing together. Services will usually be in the Parish Room and will make good use of space for meditation practices centered each week around a different sense. Some interesting highlights include using instruments to "shake loose heavy burdens" and using taste to reflect on sources of joy and conflict. Find Hope with us by looking, feeling, and listening for it this Lent.

**March 12**

**March 19**

**March 26**

**April 2**

*with friends from the MLK Jr DuPage  
Scholarship Foundation*

**April 9**

*with friends of neighboring faiths*



## LENTEN SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY

Small groups will be returning at the start of Lent. During this season we will do a book study using “40-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer”. Featuring excerpts and meditations on the writings of Bonhoeffer, this Lenten Devotional will provide a daily lens into one of the great Christian thinkers of the twentieth century.

There are still a few free copies available through the church, but additional copies may be purchased online wherever books are sold. Grab a copy a join one (or more) of our small groups.

The groups are as follows:

# Lent Small Groups

*40 day journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

<b>Mondays</b> <b>7-7:45a</b> <i>Brewed Awakening,</i> <i>Westmont</i> leader: Pr Kelsey begins March 17	<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>7-8p</b> <i>Redeemer,</i> <i>Gathering Space</i> leader: Jay Hines-Shah begins March 11	<b>Thursdays</b> <b>10-11a</b> <i>Redeemer,</i> <i>Gathering Space</i> <i>&amp; Hybrid</i> leader: Pr Katie begins March 13
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## LENTEN FIELD TRIPS

There will be two field trip opportunities this Lent. Both explore our theme of ‘Hope in a Divided World’ in different ways. Sign-up sheets will be located on the Lent bulletin board.

### BRONZEVILLE BUS TOUR

Congregational Tour of the historic Bronzeville Neighborhood in Chicago:  
Saturday, March 22 at 1PM.

Join Church and Community on a 1.5 hour bus tour of Chicago’s historic Bronzeville neighborhood, with snacks and a debrief afterward. We will carpool from Redeemer to the tour’s start point. 20 bus seats are available, but they are already going fast. Tickets are \$20 each. Reserve your spot on the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary hallway.

**BRONZEVILLE  
BUS TOUR**

**MARCH 22, 1PM**

**SIGN UP NOW!**  
SPONSORED BY  
CHUCH + COMMUNITY

WWW.CHICAGO.MAHOGANY.COM



### ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Thursday, March 27 1pm-4:30pm  
Meet at the museum.

Join Pr Kelsey for this special Thursdays 2-Gather. The mission of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is “Remember the Past, Transform the Future.” The Museum is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust by honoring the memories of those who were lost, and by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice, and indifference. We will gather at Redeemer and carpool to and from the museum in Skokie.



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

March 9 & April 6 at 5PM  
Goldfinger Brewing in Downers Grove

Join Pr Katie to discuss all things theological over a nice pint of ale (or whatever your drink of choice is)

## DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Sunday March 16, 4-6pm

Join us for a special screening of a documentary about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life of faith. There will be a discussion after the film, and snacks will be provided. See you in the Fellowship Hall!



# Lent: Finding Hope in a Divided World

## WORSHIP TOGETHER

Wednesday Soup  
Supper + Worship  
5:30p +7p

## SERVE + LEARN

Welcoming Refugees  
April 9th 5:30-7p

## FIND COMMUNITY

### Small Groups

Mondays 7a  
Tuesdays 7p  
Thursdays 10a

### Theology on Tap

March 9th • April 6th  
5p GoldFinger Brewing

### Movie Night

Bonhoeffer  
Documentary  
March 16th 4p

# Mission Outreach Recap

BY KRIS MAHON



## THANK YOU!

Mission Outreach was off to a busy and productive start in 2025.

In **January**, a coat drive was held for RefugeeOne with over 60 coats collected for our new neighbors!

**Thank you all for your participation!**

Next in **February**, Deb DeSilva from Exodus spoke to MO about what is happening with refugees and what may be expected in the next few months. We know that Welcome Packs + food is in great demand now and in the foreseeable future. Look for a collection soon.

MO purchased \$300 worth of mittens, socks + hats to Holy Family School as we heard they had a need for good quality winter items.

Also in February, three mission partner speakers came to Ault Education hour to update us on their organizations: LSSI, Hinsdale Community Service and LOVE, Inc. Always great to connect with our local mission partners.



On **March 26th**, please join MO and the confirmation youth to prepare and package Night Ministry Sack Suppers between **6:30-7:00pm**. The sack suppers will be delivered the next day to be put on the Night Ministry bus.

**April** will be filled with education and projects regarding our commitment to refugees and “Welcoming the Stranger.”

- **April 3rd:** Exodus Celebration of Hope Dinner, please let Susie Metzler know if you wish to attend
- **April 6th:** Adult Education: Andi Sarkisian, RefugeeOne, Letter writing workshop to legislators
- **April 9th:** Welcoming the Stranger community conversation hosted by Exodus Refugee Services, 6-7pm Redeemer and local churches are invited
- **April 13th:** Adult Education: Speaker Pastor Dan Beirne, Updates from Global Refuge

**Thank you for your support of Mission Outreach!**



# Church and Community Updates

BY MARY LANDIS



## SPRING RECYCLING EVENT

Church and Community is moving forward into spring, hosting the third Community Recycling event on Saturday, **May 17 from 9-12** complete with shred truck provided by IL State Representative Susie Glowiak. Stay tuned for more information. Start saving books, medical equipment (walkers, scooters, crutches), bikes, sheets for our quilters and wire hangers. More to follow.

Also remember that Redeemer collects batteries, wine bottle corks, plastic bread tags, old crayons, grocery bags, and old keys the first Sunday of each month.

## OTHER CHURCH & COMMUNITY UPDATES

Because of Redeemer participants, Church and Community has had great success in recycling holiday lights. The copper wire will be retrieved by SCARCE volunteers and recycled. Also appreciated are the keys, crayons, corks and bread tie squares etc. which are collected the first Sunday of each month. We will soon be adding to our Recycling Cart by collecting paper and plastic grocery bags.

In the meantime, a congregation trip is being planned to tour Bronzeville and its history.

The Martin Lutheran King breakfast and workshop was inspirational as were the two Sunday education times with Reverend Dr. Shannon and Ms. Tilly Turner. Thank you, Dr. Lanny Wilson for coordinating these efforts. Additionally, discussions are being pursued with two resources concerning solar energy and an audit.

We meet the first Thursday of each month from 5-6:30; Zoom is available. Please let us know of your interest.

**BAG RECYCLING**  
**FOR HCS**

plastic and paper  
grocery-store syle bags

Please check bags for holes or rips ahead of time.  
**Grocery size only**, please no: giant plastic bags or plastic garbage bags, no retail shopping sized bags.  
Please contact Pr Kelsey or Bruce Forbush with questions regarding type or size of bags

Drop off on the recycling cart- first Sunday's, or always in the church basement.

# Renewing Worship



BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH

Redeemer member Will Swenson is returning as our Newsletter editor! A big thank you to Will for stepping up to work on THIS newsletter! We are so grateful for the many talents of Redeemer members and staff!

The Property Committee has been working hard to address issues in Redeemer's Sanctuary that were not addressed during our 2019 Renewing Redeemer Project. These projects will be presented at the Congregational Meeting May 18th for the congregation's approval and will also be previewed in an Adult Forum before that time.

**Windows:** The eight nave leaded glass windows and two leaded glass altar windows need to be repaired/replaced. The lead in the (8) nave windows and the (2) altar windows is failing. The glass in the (8) nave windows is warped and have developed leaks. There is no storm or insulation protection for any of this glass. All (8) window frames are corroded, and hopper vents do not operate. These windows are a safety hazard. The altar windows are not warped but frames are corroded and there is no storm or insulation protection. The large east facing window behind the organ is bending outward and in danger of failing.



**Lighting:** Nave pendant lights (10) are at the limit of their lifespan, are failing, and have fluorescent bulbs which are to be discontinued and there is no LED replacement at this time. The ballasts are also being obsoleted and are already difficult to find. The incandescent spotlight component of each fixture has never been able to be used because of what is described as a 60 Hz hum. In addition, the heat of the spotlights (500W) will likely burn the wiring of the lighting prematurely if used. As a result, the illumination of the nave has always been below current standards.

**Costs:** The Property Committee has been soliciting bids and exploring options since last year and is still exploring options as of the publication of this newsletter. We are expecting the full cost of both projects to come in under \$250,000.

**Timing:** The best time of year to do these projects will be the summer of 2025.

**Funding:** Funding these projects will come from a combination of congregational giving and use of investment funds as a match. We hope that with congregational generosity we will be able to meet and exceed our goals.

**Questions:** Please talk to members of the Property Committee and plan on attending both their Adult Forum this spring and the Congregational Meeting in May.

Thank you in advance for your support!

# MLK “I Have a Dream” Breakfast

BY DR. LANNY WILSON



**“The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of beloved community”**

**-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

What might a “beloved community” look like in this day and age? It might look like the 1,400 people from the city and suburbs of Chicagoland who made up the vibrant tapestry of diversity that overflowed the Drury Lane Ballroom on January 20th, 2025. All were gathered to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King’s life and legacy. Eighteen members of Redeemer were there, in harmony with like-minded souls who were dedicated to Dr. King’s principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change.

Spiritual leaders – Christian, Muslim, Sikh, and Jewish – blessed the event, calling upon God to further the cause of peace and prosperity for all, and calling upon God to help us choose the harmony of community over the destruction of chaos. A musical tribute followed with an MLK youth choir and an adult celebration choir. Our keynote speaker was Fred D. Gray, Esq., a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement. He has been a cooperating attorney with the NAACP and Legal Defense Fund since 1956. He has represented many civil rights icons and organizations including the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, John Lewis, and many others. One of his messages is worth repeating: “Let’s not assume for one moment that our work is done.”



(From left to right): Dan Wagner, Lanny Wilson, Glennette Tilley Turner, Greg Hart, & Regina Brent

Redeemer was extended a heartfelt appreciation by the organizers of this 2nd Annual Event. Our generosity has helped raise a total of approximately \$200,000 thus far to support the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Fund of the DuPage Foundation. This Fund augments the Foundation’s annual Community Impact Grant Program in the areas of health, human services, and education, with a focus on supporting DuPage 501(c)(3) public charities that prioritize serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Thanks be to God that Redeemer’s Church and Community Group has made this one of their areas of focus to help achieve Dr. King’s dream of a Beloved Community in our own backyard.

# Congregational Meeting

SAVE THE DATE! REDEEMER'S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Redeemer's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in May. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for further info about date, time and place. As we get closer to the date, more information will be shared in both the weekly email and also during the announcement portion of Sunday services.



## Time to Spring Ahead

We are at that time again! Daylight Saving time begins at 2:00am on Sunday, March 9th. Spring ahead time change - remember to set your clock forward one hour, we would hate for you to miss church!



## Easter Flower Orders

Easter Flower Order forms are now available. Follow the instructions on the form. Please let us know if you have any questions. Use this form or pick up one at church!



### Easter Flower Order

To order your Easter flowers, just fill out this form. We are ordering from Vern Goers Greenhouse in Hinsdale. Leave order forms in the church office, or mail it to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 139 East First Street, Hinsdale 60521. **The deadline to order plants is 9AM on Monday, April 7, 2025.**

*Please reserve the following plants:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies (\$15)      \_\_\_\_\_ Pink Azaleas (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Blue or Pink Hydrangeas (\$32)      \_\_\_\_\_ Blue or Pink Hyacinth (\$11.50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pink, Yellow, or Lavender Tulips (\$11.50)

Pick Up \_\_\_\_\_      Leave for Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Redeemer Quilters

BY CONNIE BOTHEN



## PALM SUNDAY IS QUILT SUNDAY!

LWR Mission Quilts will be on display on Palm Sunday, April 13th!

The quilts will be blessed before being boxed for warehouse delivery and shipment. Quilts are also available for purchase (\$40). Cash or checks payable to Redeemer can be given to a quilter or dropped off in the church office. Donations are gratefully accepted. All funds go toward the purchase of batting, fabric, sewing notions, and sewing machine repairs.

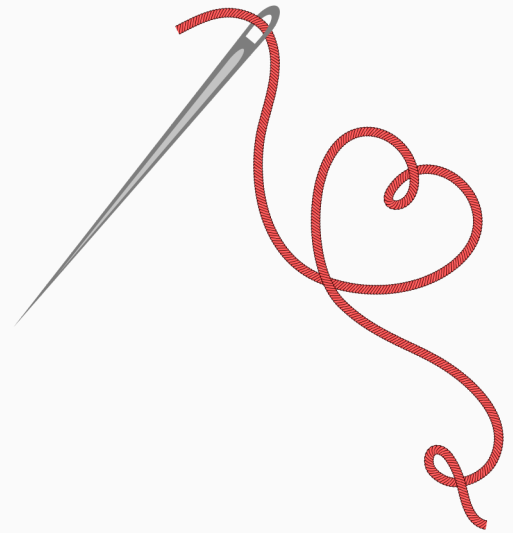
Clean cotton sheets and fabric in good condition are also appreciated. Please mark the bag “quilters”, and leave it in the Fellowship Room.

Interested quilting volunteers are always welcome! Help is needed on Wednesday mornings in the Fellowship Room, to work from home, and to take quilt boxes to the October In Gathering at Good Shephard Lutheran Church in Naperville for shipping to the LWR Warehouse in Maryland.

More information? Talk to a quilter!

Thank you for your donations and for your continuing support of our Mission Quilt Ministry.

-The Redeemer Quilters



# Updates from the Financial Secretary

BY DEBORAH KRAUS



## Ways to Give

- Check or cash offered in collection basket or dropped at the church office
- Electronically on our website: <https://redeemerhinsdale.org/give/>
- Stock Gift: <https://redeemerhinsdale.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Stock-Fund-Transfer-Instructions-Redeemer.pdf>
- An IRA Distribution
- Through a family foundation or donor advised fund

We always want to thank our members for their thoughtful giving. Please remember when making gifts of stock, IRA distributions, or through family foundations or donor advised funds, the transfer agent, in many cases, does not provide detail on the donor. You may advise the transfer agent to provide donor information. Or, you may contact Redeemer directly to anticipate your gift.

## Envelope Reminders

If you've not already done so, please remember to pick up your offering envelopes. They are waiting for you outside the parish room.



## Church Database Change

At the end of February, Redeemer will have completed a migration of our church database software from Church 360 to Tithe.ly (Breeze). This move offers Pastors and Staff improved ways to organize membership information and improve communication with the congregation and community. Our goal has always been that an internal system change should not interrupt activities for our donors. You may have noticed, though, that our 2024 Calendar Year End Giving Statements have a different layout and display of information. And, we still have a few minor adjustments to make regarding reporting. We have done our best to review for accuracy. However, should you have any questions or concerns regarding your statements, please feel free to contact our Financial Secretary (see contact information below). Once again, thank you for your patience during this transition.

**Your support of Redeemer through your time, talent and treasures is vital to our Worship, Mission Outreach, Education, Congregational Life and Administration. We are grateful to all our Redeemer Family.**

If you have any questions on items above, please contact Deborah Kraus, Redeemer's Financial Secretary at 708-436-2288 or [dbkraus@comcast.net](mailto:dbkraus@comcast.net)

# Treasurer Report

BY NANCY HAGEN



## REDEEMER LUTHERAN 2024-25 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW

My beloved community! I had the honor of attending the Martin Luther King breakfast last weekend which was sponsored by the DuPage Community Foundation. People of all faiths and backgrounds were there, as well as a nice representation from Redeemer Lutheran Church. Pastor Kelsey preached this morning a message of reconciliation and outreach. The good news is that we are in an excellent position to continue to find ways to share the Good News.

We have received the first installment of the Behnke estate with a deposit of \$350,000 in November 2024. An account has been opened at Fidelity with Mercer Advisors to manage the funds. We have an investment committee of experienced members to help guide the Mercer group in planning for the future, leaving flexibility as needed for special purpose fund spending and/or emergencies. The balance sheet includes this new account under the heading Fidelity Money Market. The Redeemer endowment fund will become part of that account.

The total offerings for the first half of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 are \$354,549 which is 109% of the budgeted \$326,500. Adding other income and the Behnke estate amount to revenue, our total income this fiscal year is \$730,853. Expenses were \$328,770 compared to the budget of \$340,650 (97% of budget) resulting in net income of \$402,083. Please note that without the new funds, our net income would have been \$52,083. This net income does not reflect spending from the balance sheet accounts given in prior years but spent in 2024.

The first 6 months of last fiscal year had total income of \$355,551 and expense of \$302,580 with a net income of \$52,971. Yes, you read that right – the net income is almost the same as last year if we take out the Behnke money.

The Balance Sheet shows total equity amount of \$ 1,896,517 which consists of:

- **Restricted funds: \$807,725 (43%)**
- **Special Purpose funds: \$313,883 (17%)**
- **Unrestricted plus net income: \$774,909 (40%)**

Redeemer's total equity increased by 31% in comparison to 2023 second quarter total equity of \$1,451,256.

In Pastor Kelsey's words from a recent service, "we are called to share the love of Christ. Now it's our turn!" With gratitude for all the faithful members of this awesome congregation,

Nancy Hagen, Treasurer January 25, 2025



## 2025 Endowment Grant Applications Available

Every year, money is available through grants from the Redeemer Covenant Endowment Fund. Up to 6% of the average of the prior year's quarterly valuations may be distributed as approved by the Council. This year, Redeemer's Endowment Committee has approved the use of up to \$30,000. The monies are generally distributed to mission causes, property needs or other causes approved by Council. Applications for funds can be obtained through the church office. Applicants will be asked for their group name, contact information, amount requested, purpose and expected results. Applications should be returned to the church office to the attention of the Council President Andy Boling on or before March 31st, 2025. Awards will be announced no later than May 1st, 2025



## Faithful Gardeners

Our gardens are currently divided into 5 spaces with one gardener or family per space. All of our gardeners could use extra help. Please consider helping to keep Redeemer's planting spaces healthy, tidy and inviting.

Gardeners do light weeding, deadheading, and watering if needed.

Landscape bags are in the outside closet and can be left in the garbage closet for Maria to put out when full.

Contact the office or Connie Bothen at [ckbothen@aol.com](mailto:ckbothen@aol.com)

# Church News and Updates



## New Member Class Coming Soon!

If you are interested in joining Redeemer's faithful community, be on the lookout for the announcement of our next New Member Class. Typically taking place on a Saturday or Sunday, this class gives you a chance to learn about the ways Redeemer members live out their calling as followers of Christ. You will hear about the different opportunities to become involved in the community's life of fellowship and service, while also getting to know the other new members joining with you.



## Mark Your Calendars for VBS!



Join us June 9 to 13 from 5:30-7:30pm for Redeemer's annual Vacation Bible School. You, your friends, and neighbors are invited to come grow in faith and hear stories of **'Extraordinary Travel: Journeys of Hope!'**

Taking place in the evening, Redeemer's VBS contains programming for every member of the family! The evening starts with a communal meal, and then transitions to age-specific activities. Children from pre-school to 5th grade can participate in a thoughtful, fun-filled curriculum designed by our own Pr Kelsey, with middle and high schoolers volunteering as guides. Adults are invited to a time of theological education and discussion led by Pr. Katie. Then, all come together once again to close in a brief time of worship. Registration will be opening soon!



# EASTER-DAY ACTIVITIES

APRIL 20TH

## Pancake Breakfast

to support Redeemer Youth

9:45-10:45am

## Egg Hunt

10:15am

All kids up to age 11 are welcome!

## Help Volunteer for Easter Day Activities

Easter morning is so much more than worship! From 9:45 to 10:45am, the youth will be serving a Pancake Breakfast to fundraise for their Mission Outreach Trip this summer to Asheville, North Carolina to assist those affected by the catastrophic hurricane last Autumn. If any of the youth in your family are available to help cook, serve, or clean, please let Pr Kelsey know. Or just come hungry, generous, and ready to celebrate Christ's resurrection by chowing down in your Sunday best!

Then, at 10:15am, all kids up to age 11 are invited to join in our annual Easter Egg hunt! We need help stuffing those eggs, so be on the lookout for bags of empty eggs that you can take home, fill with candy or toys, and then return to Redeemer to be part of the joyful chaos that is Redeemer's Easter Egg Hunt.

# Healthy Spiritual Journey

BY LANNY WILSON



## March 2025 - Be a Good Influencer

**“To be a good influencer, focus on authenticity, transparency, consistent high-quality content, active engagement with your audience, a clear niche, and a relatable personality...”**

- - Safari search answer

While helping with a railroad station safety blitz a few months ago, I received a wrist band with the simple message “Be a Safety Influencer”. It is particularly meaningful to me because on March 2, 1994, our daughter, Lauren, died at a railroad crossing about a mile from our home. Since then, I have focused a great deal of my time trying to eliminate deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways. So, how to be a good and effective “Safety Influencer” is certainly important to me. Influencers are leaders.



They promote fashion, games, and new products. My hope is that we can cultivate more who care about the common good rather than personal gain. My focus is on good influencers, for the good!



Our world needs people who are helping to make our small planet a better place to live. Over 2,000 years ago, through his teachings, stories, and example, Jesus was quite the influencer! In fact, his followers today, Christians, are the largest religious group on earth, with a membership estimated to be about 2.4 billion. His authenticity, transparency, humility, courage, forgiveness, and compassion is memorialized in the best-selling book of all time, the Judeo-Christian Bible. Jesus’s clear message is simply to love God and love our neighbor. His influential personality helped him deliver that message.



Although not the founder of Hinduism, Mahatma Gandhi's lifelong fight for India's independence from British rule, using nonviolent resistance, inspired and united the nation of India. Talk about a good influencer! His philosophy of nonviolent resistance has influenced civil rights leaders around the world, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the movement's most famous leaders. Dr. King went on to become one of the greatest civil rights influencers of all time thanks to Gandhi and the influence of Jesus, whose nonviolent approach was based upon love.

When I wear my "Be a Safety Influencer" wrist band, I am sometimes asked about it. The conversation often starts like this "In addition to being a safety influencer, I would like to be an influencer like Jesus, helping people to love God and to love our neighbors near and far. What kind of influencer are you?" Their answers are uplifting and reassuring, among them: for positive mental health, more patience, an end to hatred, genuine kindness, greater empathy, more participation in art and theater, having a positive attitude, tolerance of children with disabilities, and health of the environment. We are surrounded by kind and caring people who, if inspired, could assert their influence.

If each of us could find a way to be a good influencer for the good of all, we could help bring God's kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. In doing so, we could bring peace on earth and heal the planet. No one can do this alone; but together, we can be powerfully good influencers for God's world. Let's do it!

In God's Love,

*Lanny F. Wilson, MD*

**"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

**-- Matthew 22: 37b-39**



-Howard Thurman