



# Redeemer *Record*

Winter 2025-2026



Pastors Reports — p.1

Upcoming Events — p.3

Christmas and Advent Events and Services



Around Redeemer — p. 11

- Music and Worship
- 2025 Giving Reminders
- Stewardship Update
- East Entrance Update
- From the Office

Congregation Updates — p.17

- Births, Baptisms, Funerals
- Redeemer Up North
- The Healthy Spiritual Journey



**Redeemer**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria....And Mary gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. – Luke 2:1-2,7*

*Some nights, Furlong lay there with Eileen, going over small things like these.  
– Small Things Like These p. 30*

Clare Keegan's book *Small Things Like These* takes place in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It's 1985 and the times are tough in Ireland. Bill Furlong, a coal merchant of dubious parentage, is doing his best to raise five daughters and keep his conscious. When Furlong makes a discovery at a local convent, he is forced to examine his own past and confront the complicit silence of his church-controlled town.

I was reading an interview with Clare Keegan after *Small Things Like These* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. She was adamant that her book was not about big issues – politics – social mores – religion but was about the “small things,” that are actually much more significant. I was struck by the parallels with the Christmas story. Luke opens his nativity narrative naming the emperor of Rome, and yet this emperor, for all his power and majesty, will pale in comparison to a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and laid in an animal feeding trough because there is “no place” for him. In other words, the seemingly small thing is the most important thing of all.

The Christian Story is about small things too. Jesus loved to talk about the little. Mustard seeds, sparrows sold for a penny, grains of wheat, a spark of light, a bit of yeast. Jesus cared for the least, children, sick people, those disturbed by demons, and outsiders. He brought his followers to faith not through mighty acts but through modest signs, washing feet, sharing meals, walking along side those he loved.

Maybe we are called to do the same.

In a challenging and chaotic world where we can feel powerless to make a difference, it can be tempting to either become overwhelmed or to just go with the flow. But the story of Bill Furlong reminds us that we have small opportunities all around us, to do the right thing, to care for and serve our neighbors, to make a difference. At Christmas we remember that one small baby changed the world. His Advent reminds us that small things might just make all the difference.

Consider doing a small thing this Advent. Join the congregation in reading *Small Things Like These* this advent. Books are available in the hallway for just \$10 - \$2 off the Amazon price. Join a small group on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Come to midweek worship on Wednesday nights. Buy a gift for the giving tree, take part in the pick up pageant, sing in the cantata, invite someone to join us for Christmas Eve Worship at 4, 7, or 9 PM. Small things like these really do make a difference, for our neighbor and for each of us.

Thanks be to God!

Pr. Katie Hines-Shah, Senior Pastor

*In Nazareth, there is a grand basilica built around the remains of an unassuming grotto, which is believed by many to be the remains of Mary's childhood home. The scale of the basilica is grand and striking and sits in contrast to such a humble foundation. When I found myself there in 2018, I was in awe of this holy site, particularly because of the scale. The basilica is adorned with artwork- depictions of Mary and Jesus- from all over the world. It's a unique site in this regard. The works depict Mary and Jesus across cultures and time.*

*There is something about the annunciation that has inspired a universality that is striking to say the least.*

*I wondered about this as I walked the courtyard and corridors of the basilica: taking in Mary and Jesus in familiar and new ways... Portugal, Japan, Canada, Ethiopia, mosaic, paint, clay...*

*God's grace, and Mary's steadfast faith are celebrated in the basilica and the Annunciation is something for us to reflect on in our own faith journeys during this time of Advent preparation.*

*As I reflect on the Annunciation in Luke 1:26-38, I'm struck by Mary's initial reaction and how that is transformed through faith. When Gabriel first tells Mary about what's to come: the in-breaking of God's grace and how she will be part of the story of God alive in the world, she is not only skeptical, scripture tells us that she is troubled. The grace of God is hard to imagine sometimes! We might be skeptical on a good day and along with Mary, downright troubled by how the grace of God could even be at work when the days are growing dim and each day the world might feel more chaotic than the last.*

*But here's the good news. The word of God never fails. The grace of God surpasses our limited understanding, and breaks in. Mary found a bit of faith in this conversation with Gabriel, and her conviction and openness in proclaiming 'Here I am' opened the door for marvelous... unimaginable things to happen, and maybe might give us some hope in our own preparation for Christ this season. Through this time of preparation, may our hearts and minds find those openings of faith for grace to break in. May our souls proclaim God's greatness, and our candles grow brighter as we await God's coming.*

*~Pastor Kelsey, Associate Pastor*





# Advent *Events*

Holiday Quilt Sale  
Sunday, December 7-14

They are great as  
presents to others and  
yourself.

More info on page 4

## Giving Tree 2025

Helping children at Holy  
Family School and  
seniors at HCS.  
Sign-up in Narthax at  
the Christmas Tree.

More info on page 7

## Christmas

### Caroling

Monday, 12/22

6:00pm

Cordia

See Pr. Kelsey for more  
information or page 4

One Service at 10:00am  
December 14 - January 4

## Pie Pledge Celebration

November 30<sup>th</sup>  
Between Services

More info on page 8

## Small Groups

Mondays at 10am  
Wednesdays at 6pm  
Thursdays at 10am

More Info on page 6

## Luminaria

Families are needed to  
help set-up and tear  
down the Luminaria on  
Christmas Eve.

More info on page 4



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Traditionally, the Christmas Eve luminaria have been set up and taken down by Confirmation youth and their families. Please consider volunteering for this tradition, and help bring warmth and luminescence to the Christmas Eve service and Hinsdale community!

Set up is before the 4pm service, and take down is at 10pm, after the 9pm service. 2-3 families are needed for each time slot.

Please let Pr Kelsey know if your family will help serve.

## QUILTERS CHRISTMAS SALE

December 7<sup>th</sup> and  
December 14<sup>th</sup>  
All quilts are priced at  
\$40

Consider the cozy, warm gift of a quilt for someone you love!

Proceeds will go to support Redeemer's Lutheran World Relief Quilting Ministry

*Poinsettia Order forms  
now available*



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code or refer to the order forms in your bulletins for more information.



# My Soul Proclaims

Advent Midweek Worship

**Wednesdays**

in the Parish Room

7:00-7:30pm

December 3, 10, & 17



## PICK-UP PAGEANT

**DECEMBER 14TH**  
**COME AT 8:30AM, WORSHIP AT 10**

All ages welcome + encouraged to participate!



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

youth and families are invited to  
carol at Cordia Senior Living  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm



RSVP to Pastor Kelsey

REDEEMER LUTHERAN HINSDALE PRESENTS

## KNEELING IN BETHLEHEM

### A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 21  
10:00am

Redeemer Lutheran Hinsdale Sanctuary

See Peter if you are  
interested in singing or  
playing an instrument! **5**



**ALL ARE WELCOME**

# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

**AT REDEEMER  
HINSDALE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Wednesday, 12/24**

**4:00pm**

**7:00pm\***

**8:15pm**

**Organ Recital**

**9:00pm**

**All services include Special Music,  
Communion, and Carols by Candlelight**

**Thursday, 12/25**

**10:00am\***

**\*In Person and Livestream**

*Livestream  
link*



**Redeemer** LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

139 E First St. Hinsdale IL 60521 • 630-323-5530 • redeemerhinsdale.org





# SMALL THINGS

This Advent consider joining a small group! While worship is at the heart of all we do, small groups are a unique opportunity to meet people, make friends, and grow faith through deeper engagement.


This Advent we will be reading Clarie Keegan's *Small Things Like These*. This short (116 pages) book has won a number of awards and accolades. Short listed for the Booker Prize, named a New York Times Top Book of the 21st Century, and an Oprah Book Club 2024 selection, it's a story that has reached a wide variety of audiences and touched a number of different people. Don't have time to read? There's even a movie version of *Small Things Like These* available to stream on Hulu (with a subscription) or on other platforms for a fee.

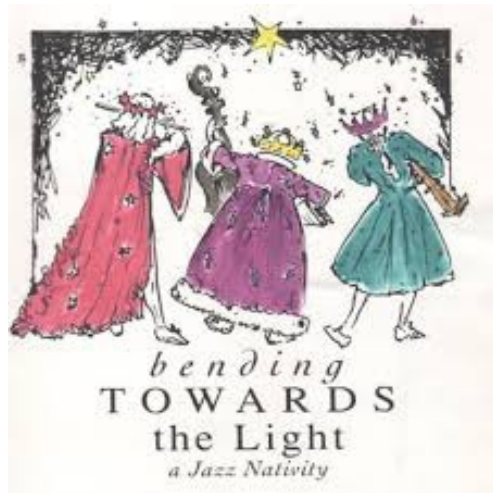
You are invited to pick up a book in the hallway across from the narthex. The cost is just \$10. When you buy a book sign up for a small group. Groups are meeting Monday, Wednesday Night at 6PM, and Thursday morning at 10AM. Our guides will take us through three weeks of Advent. We will discuss chapters of *Small Things Like These* alongside some of the great songs of the Bible and their themes of thanks, justice, and peace. These themes will be reiterated during Midweek Advent Worship.

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact Pr. Katie.

We look forward to learning and growing with you this Advent!

# LIKE THESE





Dear friends, I am delighted to invite you to attend Bending Towards the Light, a jazz nativity, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 14 2025 at St. Cletus Parish Center, 600 W. 55th St., LaGrange. This is a beautiful celebration of the advent of Christ in the world, filled with shepherds, angels, and kings. The cast and band will be conducted by Justin Sisul, and will include Kirk Garrison, Ken Jandes, Chris Davis, John Sutton, Bobby Schiff, Ernie Adams, Geraldo de Oliveira, Tim Coffman, Daniel Riley, Dan MacDonald, Kecia Waldschmidt, Gayle Bisesi, Emma Bolam, Bridget Grissom and others.

I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Advent!

Andy Tecson



**The following groups will be on vacation from December 24 - January 2**

Choir Rehearsal\*  
Handbell Rehearsal\*  
\*You are performing 12/24  
Virtual Prayer Group

Quilters  
Confirmation  
Bible Study  
Tai Chi



Redeemer will continue to support our mission partners  
Holy Family School and Hinsdale Community Service seniors again this season!

Holy Family School has provided us with 20 fifth grade names.

And instead of gifts, would like each student to receive a \$25 Target gift card.

HCS has provided us with 40 low income DuPage senior names. Their gifts are either gift cards or items they requested. The seniors will pick them up on Friday, December 12th 9:00am-10:30am, a light breakfast reception will be held in the Parish Room. (If you would like to help, please look for sign up on hallway bulletin board)

Please take a tag from the tree and sign up on the table starting November 16th. All gifts are due back by Sunday, December 7th at Noon.

Thank you, Mission Outreach



“The Souper Bowl of Caring” supporting Hinsdale Community Service will be coming in February.

# Fun Flicks Fridays

3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, 6-8:30pm!

- ▶ Family-friendly movie night
- ▶ Free dinner (kid-approved)
- ▶ 139 East 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Hinsdale
- ▶ Come for the food, stay for the fun, friends and flicks!

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month | 6:00pm-8:30pm

**Redeemer**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HINSDALE, IL

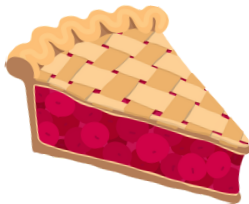
**COMING SOON**



December 19, 2025



January 16, 2026



## PIE PLEDGE CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 30, 2025  
9:45-10:45



Come and enjoy pie and fellowship as we celebrate an incredible stewardship season.  
If you want to bring a pie, contact Annette Martinez or Pastor Kelsey



RECONCILING IN CHRIST  
SUNDAY 2026

Celebrating Diversity  
as God's Children



Keep an eye out for more information for this wonderful service, January 25th!

**THE DUPAGE COUNTY  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

invite you to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual reestablishment of the

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
**UNITY BREAKFAST**



Photo Taken By:  
Bernard J. Kleina

**DOROTHY COUNTS-SCOGGINS**

**Keynote Speaker**

American Civil Rights Pioneer  
The first black student admitted to  
Harry P. Harding High School.



**Entertainment by  
THE MLK UNITY CHOIR**

with

Carsie Barnes IV and Favored Friday  
John Dudley and LiBeraed Chorale  
Angie Johnson and Ryan Rimington,  
Young Naperville Singers

Under the direction of Rev. Anthony Vinson



**Featured Artist  
LEMMIE BATTLES**

American Gospel Singer



*Where Do We Go  
From Here...  
Chaos or Community*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026**

**8:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. Breakfast**

**Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL**

<b>PREMIER</b>   \$25,000	<b>IMPACT</b>   \$10,000	<b>SOCIAL</b>   \$2,500
<b>SIGNATURE</b>   \$15,000	<b>COMMUNITY</b>   \$5,000	<b>TABLE</b>   \$1,500
<b>\$100 PER PERSON</b>		

Register Here: <https://www.dupagefoundation.org/MLKDay>

For any questions, please contact Jessica Barr at [jessica@lwcoinc.com](mailto:jessica@lwcoinc.com).

The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies, Inc. has established the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Fund of DuPage Foundation and all net proceeds will go to the fund.

The DuPage Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization (TAX ID #36-3978733).

Your contribution less \$100 per in-person seat may be tax-deductible.

# AROUND REDEEMER



## BLESSINGS OVERFLOW

# Music & Worship

“Wake, awake, for night is flying!” These words that begin Bach’s cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 140 (we’ll hear the relevant parable, Mt. 25:1-13, next November) always strike me at this time of year when the nights are getting longer. At the same time, the rhythms of life increase their pace – holiday gatherings, last-minute work projects, travel plans. I’ve been privileged to lead the music at Redeemer for about two months now, and the time certainly has flown by! I cannot thank you enough for your warm welcome and readiness to worship. Our time together has already been blessed by the Festival Choir and Gargoyle Brass on Reformation, peals from the Alleluia Ringers on All Saints’ Day, and the joyful throng of voices in the nave singing together each week. Now we’ve come to the beginning of a new church year and a season of business. Before the coming nights fly past us, let’s remember the example of the wise attendants in Matthew 25 and gather, preparing to celebrate the coming of Christ and a new morning.

## Worship opportunities leading up to Christmas

### Midweek Worship My Soul Proclaims Parish Room at 7pm 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

Inspired by *Small Things Like These*, we will read songs of praise from the Bible, accompanied by meditative songs from Taizé. Each canticle explores how we proclaim Thanks, Justice, and Peace. The theme centers around the Magnificat, Mary’s song of praise in Luke 1. Her heart’s song reminds us how God is revealed in small things – a young girl, a human baby, the sharing of a meal.

### Cantata Sunday Kneeling in Bethlehem; Sanctuary at 10am December 21

This year’s cantata is *Kneeling in Bethlehem* with music by Michael Burkhardt and poetry readings by Ann Weems. A diverse set of carols is woven together through Weems’s poetry, who implores every heart to prepare its room. The cantata will feature the Festival Choir and Alleluia Ringers, as well as other musicians. I hope you join us in kneeling by the manger as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord!

### Organ Recital Sanctuary at 8:15pm Thursday, December 24

Are you looking for a little more festivity before your long winter’s nap? Do you want first choice of pew for the 9pm service? Come enjoy some festive organ music between services on Christmas Eve, as we continue to celebrate Christ’s birth!



### Cantata Rehearsal Information

Are you interested in lending your voice to this year’s Christmas cantata? No prior experience needed – just attendance at a few rehearsals (see below)! To ensure we have music for all singers, please reach out to Peter to express your interest or with any questions. He can be reached by phone (630-323-5530), email ([music@redeemerhinsdale.org](mailto:music@redeemerhinsdale.org)), or around the building on Sunday mornings.

Choir Rehearsals – 7:30pm 12/3, 12/10, 12/17  
Dress Rehearsal – 9am 12/20  
Service – 10am 12/21

# 2025 Year End *Giving Reminders*

As 2025 draws to a close, please consider your financial support in aiding Redeemer's mission and ministry.

## Ways to Give

### Check or Cash

- Placed in the collection basket during service
- Dropped off at the church office
- Must be physically in the office by noon on Tuesday 12/30/2025 to appear on your 2025 Giving statement

### Electronically on our website



Scan here for website

Giving Statement year is determined by the online gateway settlement, not the date you enter it online

Potential Interruption Notice  
If you have set up recurring gifts online through Redeemer's website, please note that if your credit card number or expiration date on the card changes in any way, your recurring gift may be impacted. Be sure to check your email for any failed transaction notices.

### Stock and Mutual Fund Gifts



Scan here for directions

### Family Foundation, IRA distributions or Donor Advised Funds

For stock gifts, IRA distributions and Foundation/Fund donations, please be certain to consult with your tax advisor as to tax treatment and year end timing for the gifts.

### Questions

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



## *Tax Law Changes*

Major tax law changes affecting charitable deductions will take effect in 2026 because of the OBBB H.R.1 signed into law on July 4, 2025. The changes affect both itemizers and non-itemizers. Please make sure to consult with your tax advisor to determine if accelerating your giving into 2025 would be advantageous for you.

## Envelope Number Changes

Many Redeemer members have moved to electronic giving or to donate by grant, IRA distributions, or stock transfer. With this shift in giving patterns, we've again reduced the number of paper envelope sets ordered. If your current envelope number is greater than **#75**, our Financial Secretary, Deborah Kraus, will be contacting you to advise of the change in your envelope number.

**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.**

# Stewardship *Update*

Generosity abounds at Redeemer this year! There is good news to report about pledging progress and there is still time for you to get in your pledge this year!

This year Redeemer's Stewardship Team partnered with GSB to refresh and renew our annual campaign. Our theme was Gathering for All Seasons – a play on our Fall Focus book *The Art of Gathering*, an opportunity to give thanks for the many ways Redeemer blesses and serves our community throughout the year, and an invitation to take part in supporting the church. This year we had three temple talks, two mailings, and one pie social to celebrate!

Looking over historical data, our Gathering for All Seasons Campaign is well on its way:

- In 2022, there were 66 pledges totaling \$430,566
- In 2023, there were 77 pledges totaling \$467,477
- In 2024, there were 81 pledges totaling \$467,060
- In 2025, there were 73 pledges totaling \$442,134
- So far - as of November 18, there have been **72 pledges** for a total of **\$433,143** dollars pledged. Last year this **same group of givers** pledged \$352,734 – that means we have an **increase of over \$80K** with more pledges expected! Thank you for your generosity!

If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time to give! Redeemer's annual budget is supported by investment income, savings, rental donations, and member offerings. Your financial gifts make up the largest part of our income by far. As long time gives age and move away, your gifts become even more important. Please note, if you give a monthly gift by credit card make sure you update that gift when you get a new card!

If you would like information about giving electronically, giving stock gifts, or getting records for your taxes, please contact Deborah Kraus, our financial secretary.

THANK YOU for your generosity! Your pledges and offerings mean that Redeemer live our Gospel calling in this and every season!

In God's love,

The Stewardship Team of Generosity Coaches



# East Entrance *Announcement*

The time has come to repair Redeemer's East Entrance.

If you come through the door by the parking lot or the main doors through the East Entrance porch, you have seen the signs. Crumbling brick and tuckpointing, mysterious water marks in the hall, uneven stairs and rusting railings combined with walls that don't quite meet code mean it's time to renew and restore. Property, with Council's blessing, has been aware of these issues and a couple years ago began soliciting plans, narrowing options, and calculating costs. We think the time is right to start the next stages of the process so that we can have a new East Entrance come fall.

Some notes –

- The East Entrance work proposed will completely redo the East Entrance porch and landscaping
- The proposal includes improvements for gathering, entering, and meeting. There are planters as well as code compliant walls.
- The proposal does not include a ramp. The space required would force a ramp to reach First Street (not the parking lot), would also require extensive review by Redeemer's neighbors and more permitting by the village, delaying the project.
- The cost of the project is anticipated at approximately \$300K.

## **Mark your calendar for two important dates:**

- **Sunday February 1 - 9:45AM** – Adult Forum with Property on East Entrance
- **Sunday February 8 - 9:45AM** – Special Congregational Meeting to vote to approve East Entrance Plans and Funding

For more detailed information, please talk to Tom Bothen, or any Property Committee member.



# From the Office



Thank you so much for the extremely warm welcome that I have received from everyone here at Redeemer. I know when there is some fluctuation in the office, it can be really frustrating. As soon as you learn one person's methods, everyone changes and the procedures change too!

Yes, there will be changes in the office as well but I want to be as upfront as I can be with the congregation. Right now, I cannot make a prediction about how everything will land so here is a little information you may need for right now.

## Are you changing the way we order flowers for the altar?

No. There will be no change in that process. The sheets for 2026 will be out for sign-ups on December 3. Don't forget to make a note on your donations that they are for flowers if you want me to order them for you.

## What if I want to add an announcement to the TV and/or bulletin/E-Blast?

Sending me an email is probably the best way. That way you can add any pictures or inspiration. If you want to trust me with making it look pretty, I am happy to do that. You could also put a note in my mailbox.

## How do you say your last name?



ROW - dig - er

## Can you help me solve my problems?

If they are life problems, probably not but I would be more than happy to listen and keep your confidence as long as no one is in danger. If they are church problems, I will need a few more weeks before it is a definite YES!

## What has been going on with the bulletins?

Some of the changes were from the hospitality committee recommendations like the addition of the reading page numbers. The mistakes? Well, that is me figuring out what the system looks like for me to be successful.

## Are you going to be a member here?

No. I am a member of an ELCA church in Mount Prospect. I run the facebook live, sing, and play bells there. I also make the bulletins every other week and am co-leading the call committee for a new pastor. Leaving is not an option right now.

## Check Request Changes

If you work with a committee or team that writes check requests for reimbursement or order payment, you will see the form has changed. There are 2 reasons for the change. First, we have a new accountant and this aligns more closely to how they need the information. Second, there have been a few comments (positive, I promise) that made me think the process could be clearer and more streamlined. The forms are in the same location and there is now a schedule to help you know when checks will be cut. Basically, we need a 2 week warning at bare minimum as of right now. This process is new and there are bound to be a few hiccups. Hopefully, no one outside of the staff and Nancy H. will know about them. If we have to make a change to meet our needs, I will include it in the weekly E-Blast.

# CONGREGATION UPDATES



*Thankful  
& Blessed*



Callum Jay Fitzpatrick was born on November 8th weighing 4 pounds 3 ounces.

Courtney (Cimo) and Shamus Fitzpatrick are the proud parents. Cindy and Jay Dee Cimo are the proud grandparents.

CONGRATULATIONS



Clark Andrew Jiang was born November 24<sup>th</sup> weighing 8 lbs 8 ounces.

Emma (Rusthoven) and David Jiang are the proud parents and Chris and Bob Rusthoven are the proud grandparents.

CONGRATULATIONS



## Deaths in the Church Family

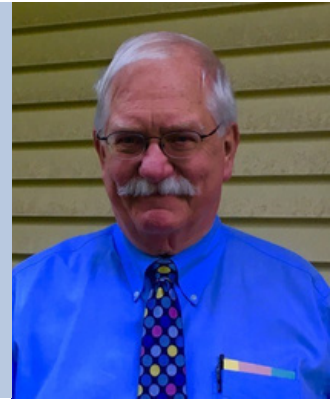
Dr. William R. Jacobs  
Carol Remes

Obituaries to follow



# Dr. William R. Jacobs

Died August 12, 2025



Dr. William R. Jacobs, 84, of Hinsdale, IL, formerly of Decatur, IN, passed away Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

William was the eldest son of Wilma and Louis Jacobs and brother to Steve, Jane, and Mark, Bill was an avid reader who never stopped learning. Fondly known as “Jake,” he was a cardiologist & teacher at Loyola University for 43 years. He also worked at Hines Veterans’ Hospital and was the cardiologist at the Brookfield Zoo. Bill enjoyed reading about most topics, but really enjoyed reading about natural sciences. He collected fountain pens and knives. When he was a young boy, Bill and his brothers used to enjoy building small gas engines. He was a graduate of the Reppert School of Auctioneering as well.

William proudly served his country as Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. Father of Michael (Beverly), Rachel (Matt), and Laurel (Paul). Stepfather to Kiersten and Adrienne. Grandfather to Madeline, Katelyn, Patrick, and Liam.

Bill was preceded in death by his second wife, Stephanie, his youngest brother Mark, and his parents, Wilma and Louis Jacobs.

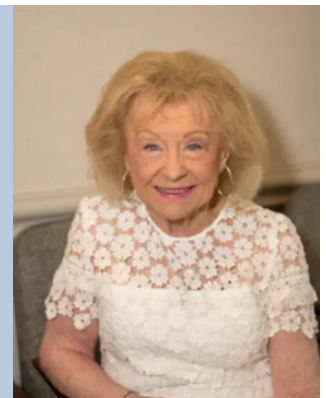
A Memorial Service for William will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 139 E 1st St, Hinsdale, IL 60521.

Memorial donations may be made to American Heart Association or Center for Dementia Research.



# Carol Diane Remes

December 17, 1933- October 25, 2025



Carol Diane Remes, nee Hatak, longtime resident of Oak Brook, passed away October 25, 2025, at Oak Trace in Downers Grove. Born December 17, 1933, to Charles and Camilla Hatak during the height of the Great Depression. Her doting parents established many of Carol’s lifelong principles such as:

- Money doesn’t care who has it
- Never touch the principal
- You can think it, but don’t say it

At 13, Carol welcomed her sister Camille into the world. Sadly, when Carol was 23 her parents had both passed on and Carol assumed full responsibility for Camille. These events didn't crack or diminish her faith or her ambition. Carol worked an office job by day and at night pursued her passion for singing. She sang at the Lyric Opera as a soloist and honed the skills that she would utilize for her whole life. Weekly church attendance and daily Bible study were a mainstay of her schedule and she carried that work forward for the remainder of her life.

Around this time Carol met Miles. After a suitable courtship, they married. Not long afterwards they welcomed their son Matthew and their daughter Bethany. Eight years later the family caboose arrived in the form of Charles.

Miles worked tirelessly to provide for the family while Carol worked tirelessly to ensure their children's proper upbringing. By the early 1970s, Miles asked Carol what she thought about starting an auto repair business. Carol wholeheartedly supported this effort and supported Miles in that endeavor. Eventually they moved the business to Westmont where it remains today under the thoughtful leadership of their grandson Charles Bawel and his father Brandon Bawel.

Carol traveled to Europe with her sister and beloved brother-in-law for a whirlwind tour through the greatest cities in the world. As an avid reader, Carol enjoyed visiting some of the places that she had only visited in her imagination.

Carol and Miles settled into enjoying their retirement and spending time with their grandchildren. Unfortunately, tragedy struck and their first-born son Matthew passed away (1999). This affected Carol profoundly. Her lifelong faith in Christ the Redeemer helped the family through that difficult time.

In the 2010s, their son Charles got married and added 3 more grandchildren to the tally. There's about a 30 year gap between the first phase of grandchildren and the second phase. Also in the past decade, Carol's grandchildren Charles and Brooke produced families of their own and delivered the first of the great grandchildren.

Carol is preceded in death by her loving husband Miles Remes and her cherished son Matthew Remes. She is survived by her daughter Bethany (Michael) Fus, and son Charles (Brooke) Remes; proud grandmother of Charles (Jenna) Bawel, Brooke (Madison Currin) McCarty, Theodore, Benjamin and Grace Remes; dearest great-grandmother of Carter, Nash, June, Tripp, Miles, and Margaux; dear sister of Camille (the late Donald) Pryber; loving aunt of Cyndi Pryber and Caroline (Timothy) Martini; great aunt of Sydney, Taylor and Patrick. Visitation Wednesday, October 29th, 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 South Grant Street, Hinsdale. Funeral Service 10:00 AM at Zion Lutheran Church, 204 South Grant Street, Hinsdale. Interment to follow at Bronswood Cemetery, Oak Brook. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Zion Lutheran Church are appreciated. 630-323-0275 or [www.sullivanfuneralhomehinsdale.com](http://www.sullivanfuneralhomehinsdale.com)

# Redeemer *Up North*



## Minnesota Update

We're so happy to be back home & reconnecting with friends...and we're enjoying unseasonably pleasant weather. We miss our Redeemer peeps, though, and you're in our prayers every day.

Hugs & blessings to you all!



Laura & Marie

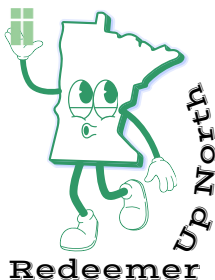


The angels who loaded 4 SUVs and a truck with household furniture & furnishings, and moved them all in, in under 2 hours. [Our friends told us they'd "picked up toilet paper and a few other things." They brought literally \*EVERY\* other thing we might possibly need, and we were utterly gobsmacked... or, in this case, God-smacked! 🙌]

On Friday of move-in week, Graeme (former Redeemer music director) invited us to his home in St Paul for lunch, and we had a blast together



By the end of week 2, we were carrying out Pr Katie's commission to establish Redeemer North! 🙌 At Pilgrim Lutheran in St Paul (Graeme's church), there is now a Redeemer North pew-- it's on the left side, 3rd row from the front. In case any of you are in town visiting, you'll know where to find your pew. 😊



We got our first snow overnight-- an inch or so of Very Pretty on the grass, and slushy ice on the road. Having no aspirations to break downhill speed records as an elderly toboggan, I will not be walking down Old Cedar Ave this morning!



# The Healthy *Spiritual Journey*

October - 2025

**Be Curious, Not Judgmental**

“Be curious, not judgmental” -

Attributed to Walt Whitman by the fictional character, Ted Lasso

Friends told me that the television series Ted Lasso was well-worth the time spent watching. So, last month, my wife and I binge watched all three seasons. Other than too many ‘f-bombs’, the show was funny, poignant, and even inspiring; we looked forward to each new episode. The scene where our hero, Ted Lasso, tells his antagonist to “Be curious, not judgmental” was one of the highlights. The crowd watching him (surprisingly) win a game of darts did not have a clue that he could throw darts so well because no one had ever asked. Ted’s wise curiosity, refusal to be judgmental, and understanding of the word “Believe” helped him develop winning communities on and off the British football/soccer field.



One of my favorite quotes is from Soren Kierkegaard, “Once you label me, you negate me”. In a world quick to label and slow to listen, curiosity can become a sacred act. It can help us learn more about our neighbors and about the mystery of God. Judgmental labels will not lead us to truth, but quiet acts of curiosity and wonder have powerful potential. Truth, like mathematics and science, has no opinion. It simply exists, and should be sought with humility, patience, and neighborly love.

Jesus modeled how to be curious. He often asked questions such as: “Who do you say I am?” “Do you want to be healed?” “Why are you afraid?” His questions were relational. They invited reflection, not reaction. Even when He was confronted by Pilate before his crucifixion, Jesus did not defend Himself with argument. He stood in silence, allowing this question to linger: “What is truth?” (John 18:38).

Seeking truth requires us to be curious. Oftentimes, it requires us to live with the questions rather than the answers. When truth is revealed, curiosity may allow us to receive it in its fullness, without needing to reduce truth to something comfortable or convenient. When we seek truth, it may be to understand the world around us - or maybe the people around us - or even ourselves.



**Being nonjudgmental does not mean being passive or indifferent. It means choosing compassion over condemnation. It means seeing others not as problems to be solved, but as stories to be heard. When we suspend judgment, we make room for grace. We allow others to be complex and to be human - a work in progress. At the same time, we might even allow ourselves the same grace - the same mercy.**

If we are willing to be curious rather than judgmental, we are likely to be attuned to the mystery and whispers of the Holy Spirit. Curiosity can keep our faith dynamic, deepening our relationship with God. A posture of curious wonder can help us answer the question “What is truth?” It can help us with positive, growing, mysterious spiritual transformation, even while our physical body is aging.

As we continue our healthy spiritual journey, let us be curious rather than judgmental, always seeking truth. Approach both mystery and truth with reverence - because God is there - where they converge.

In God’s love,  
Lanny F. Wilson, MD  
“What is truth?” - - John 18:38

