

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 111 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Redeemer Lutheran Church
The Rev. Richard A. Mathisen Interim Pastor

Hulmeville and Woodland Avenues
Pennel, PA 19047
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 215-757-2724 Fax: 215-757-7199 Handicapped Accessible Via a Lift

Email: Redeemerlutheranchurchpenndel@verizon.net
On the Web: redeemerlutheranpenndel.org

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

WORSHIP SERVICES & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM

Communion Sunday's 2/7, 2/21/16

Transfiguration Sunday, Youth in Worship, Fat Sunday; 2/7/16

worship 9:30am followed by pancake breakfast

Ash Wednesday 2/10/16, Soup Supper 5:30pm, Worship 7pm

Midweek Soup Supper and Worship 2/17/16 5:30pm soup, 7pm worship

Midweek Soup Supper and Worship 2/24/16 5:30pm soup, 7pm worship



February 2016

Pastor's Page

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is upon us. Lent traditionally is a time of spiritual renewal. During these forty days, from Ash Wednesday (February 10) to Easter Sunday (March 27), Christians are urged to pray and to meditate anew on the Gospel accounts of Christ's redemptive passion and death.

If we open our hearts to God's Word this Lent, we will discover many spiritual life-or-death questions that are asked of us. Some of those questions are:

"Am I really trying to love God?"

"Do I act as if I'll never die?"

"Am I willing to repent?"

"Do I really love anyone but myself?"

Such are the questions posed by Lent. Take a moment during Lent to conduct your own spiritual inventory. What is the most important thing to you in your life? What do you like most about your life? What do you like least about your life? If you had only one message to give to the people you care most about, what would that message be? Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that -- if circumstances called for it -- you would be willing to die for? If this were the last day in your life, what would you do with it?

These are not easy questions. But, then, Lent is not intended to be an easy time! [These questions are from noted author Rev. Frederick Buechner, my religion teacher in my youth.]

During Lent, we prepare for Easter. The final week of Lent, Holy Week, is the most intense preparation and begins Palm Sunday, on March 20. Then we have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on March 24 & 25, and the huge celebration of Easter Sunday on March 27.

Pastor's Page

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on February 10th at 7:00pm. Then we will have our standard Midweek Lenten services each Wednesday with the soup suppers at 5:30pm followed by a half hour service at 7pm. We urge you to join us in fellowship and worship as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter!

May the reflection time of Lent, in preparation for Easter, be a truly blessed time for you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Richard A. Mathisen



Notes and News.....

Interim Process

Pastor Mathisen is visiting a sample of about 25 families to help him plan his work, which is about the process of seeking a permanent pastor. He can't visit everyone, but he is trying to visit persons and families in different categories, such as long term or short term members, older and younger members, etc. Council has assisted him in selecting many of these families. He will make his recommendations about process to Council as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance!

Prayer Concerns

Members: : Charlene Williams, Josephine Weiss, Jim and Helen Susko, Alice Skinner, Jane & Lynn Leppo, Marty Ditcher, Barbara Kissinger, Dee Grover, Lenore Miller, Doris Parfitt, Donald Robinson, Christina Jackson, Carol Samuels-Stout, Pat Gallagher, Linda Winter, Charles Olson, Michelle Morris, Gary Overbaugh, Ruth Schwartz, Blanche Short, Jean Lippincott.

Relatives and Friends of our Members: Ray Gould, Tracey Yepello, Jerry and Bernadine Messenger, Marie Trainor, Michelle Manrodt, Christina Hughes, Codey Erb, Catherine Kelly, Rosemarie Jester, Bernice Mazur, Susan Marion, Tom Gallagher, Dennis Green, Rachel Frasca, Jose Ruiz, Jay Messenger, Dennis Finn, Henry and Arlene Krajewski, Dick Bolinski, Mary & John Gruppioni, Marietta Williams, John Hrywnak, Thomas Hemphill, Amanda Lyons, Patti Kinsley, Patricia Paul, Jennifer Maroun, Myrt Dinda, William Gardiner, Terry Lee, Dana Stone, William and Maryjane Engle, Beth Ohr, Fred Winter, Elaine Reese, Patti Hiller, Lorrie Marten, June Schultz, Mary Beth Morris, Ted Skwarek, Lawrence Patelunas.

Relatives and Friends of our Members Serving in the Military: Ron Skoczylas, Chad Durban, Bryan Oser, Joseph Piel, Derrick Stone, Mason Burgess.

Remember in Your Prayers Pastor and staff of Redeemer, and our Nations Leaders:

Pres. Barack Obama, Our U.S. Senators, The Supreme Court, and the House of Representatives.

Prayer Initiative for February

On February 14th we will pray for:

Lauren Mariano and children Kayla & Kerstin Pugh, Patricia & Darrel Martin & children Haley & Kelsi, Erik & Danielle Martinsen & children Julie Anna & Mason, Lynn Martinsen , Katie Ladigoski, Andy Martinsen

On February 28th we will pray for:

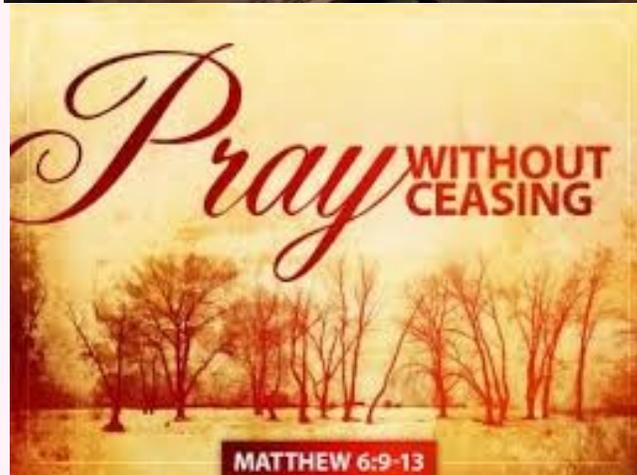
Jeffrey Mason & children Jessica & Kendra, Alberto Mateo, Lori Meola & children Sam & Amy, Cindy & Lew Oser, Lenore Miller, Grayce Mills, Millie Murray, Charles Olson, Laura Ottinger



Change in Prayer List Procedures

The Prayer List at Redeemer Lutheran is very important, but like in other congregations it tends to keep growing because people forget to remove names after recovery. Pastor Mathisen's policy, used successfully in other congregations and now approved by Redeemer's council, is to place names on the Prayer List for a period of four weeks. After four weeks, a name is removed and placed in God's care. A name can always be added again to the Prayer List by a request to the parish secretary. The pastor exercises discretion as appropriate.

We will be using this new procedure beginning February 1. If you have any questions or concerns about this new procedure, please speak to the secretary or Pastor Mathisen. Thank you!



Parish Register



Dear Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Bucks County Housing Group Board of Directors, Staff and the families we serve at the Penndel Supportive housing Shelter, thank you for your generous donation of \$100 in Redners gift cards. Your ongoing support of Bucks County Housing Group is so very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dear Friends,

It is my special joy and privilege to thank you for your recent gift to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. You are such a vital part of the ministry we do preparing leaders to serve our Lord and our church. You make it possible for us to continue the excellence LTSP has been recognized for over its 151 year history.

We wish you God's blessings in our ministry together in boldly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ that needs to be heard in our world today. We know that that same proclamation will continue to be vital for the future.

Because of you that News continues to be shared. You help insure that the message of God's love will continue to be told through preparing leaders to serve our Lord and our Church. You make a difference in the lives of our students and those they will serve!

Thank you for your generous support of LTSP and our students as they prepare to go into the world sharing God's love. May God continue to bless you as you have a blessing your faith filled ministry.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Afflerbach, Associate in Ministry, Director, Donor Services

Parish Register cont'd



Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Irene Barone who passed away on December 13, 2015. Her service was held at Redeemer on 12/9/2015.



Jayden Anthony Winkler son of Miranda Winkler was baptized at Redeemer on Sunday 1/17/2016. Proud great grandparents are Bob and Phyllis Winkler.



Evangelism

In January we held our annual cook off. The turnout was pretty good. We had no appetizer entries and only 2 dessert entries. We did however have a great assortment of entrees. Since we had no appetizers, we gave out 2 winners for entrees. The winners were Karen Kondrk & Dolores Danielson for their entrees and Marge Eienkel for her dessert, Thank you to everyone who came and cooked. Everything was delicious! And thank you to John Schwenk for entertaining us with some trivia questions. Everyone had a great time.

We are continuing to look into how to get the young adults more involved and also working to increase membership.



Christian Education/Sunday School

Well can you believe February 7th is Transfiguration Sunday? Our Sunday school children have been busy decorating their Alleluias for this special day when we place them in the box to “bury them” during Lent. On February 7th the congregation will have the opportunity to do the same in preparation of Lent. During the weeks of Lent, Sunday school will once again offer “Palm Prayers,” asking members of Redeemer to write prayer requests on green palms (hands) located in the rear of the church and place them in the basket. Each week these will be collected by Sunday school for our prayer initiative. On Palm Sunday the palm prayers will be presented during the processional and placed at the altar.

Redeemer has a weather emergency phone chain established and you will receive a call in the event Sunday and church is canceled. Those Sunday school families who have cell phone information on file with Denise Robinson will also get a text.

The February lesson for the kids is the story of “**Saul**” found in 1 Samuel.

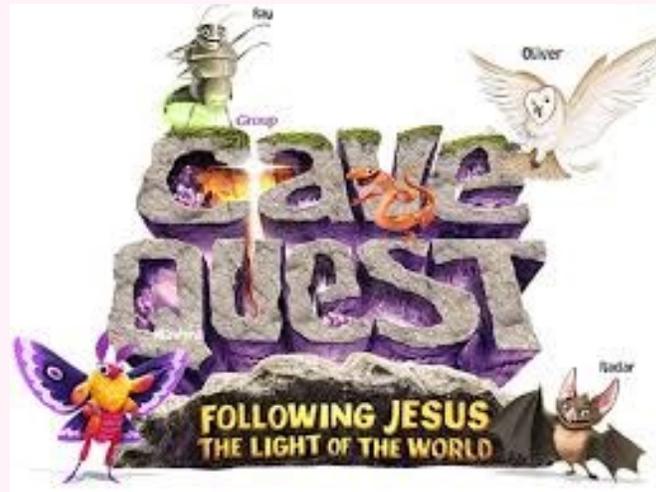
Adult Bible studies are going well on Monday nights and the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Please check with Diane Anderson or Ilene Kersten, respectively, if you have any questions regarding the programs.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR FEBRUARY

- 7th - Transfiguration/ burying the Alleluias- Fat Sunday; YOUTH IN WORSHIP; Youth drama; BRUNCH following,
- 10th – Ash Wednesday SERVICE at Redeemer at 7pm
- 14th - (1st Sunday of Lent) **lesson on Saul** -1Samuel 13, 15, 18; God’s Global Barnyard (Begin discussion of Lenten eggs during opening)17th – soup and bread 5 pm, mid week Lenten service 7pm
- 21st - (2nd Sunday of Lent) **Saul continues**---- 1Samuel 13, 15, 18
 - 24th - soup and bread 5 pm, mid week Lenten service 7pm
- 28th – conclusion of **Saul** ---- 1Samuel 13, 15, 18



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JULY 18-22, 2016; 6-8:15 PM

On Sunday, February 7, 2016 the congregation is invited to worship service beginning at 9:30am followed by a Brunch at 10:30am. Our Brunch has been part of our "Fat Sunday" celebration for the past thirteen years which is organized in order to draw our attention to the Lenten Season that begins on February 10th with a Soup supper at 5:30pm followed by the Ash Wednesday service at 7pm.

If you plan to attend the Brunch on February 7th, please complete the reservation slip and place it in the box located in the Narthex.

------(cut along here)-----

I plan to attend the Pancake Brunch
February 7, 2016

Name: _____

No. attending: _____



February Server Schedule

| February 2016 | 9:30am Worship |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2/7/2016 Transfiguration Sunday | Setting 3 Communion |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Damian Thomas, Brian O'Connell |
| Lay Assistant | Kyra O'Connell |
| Psalm Reader | Michaela Hemphill |
| 1st Reader | Tyler Thomas |
| 2nd Reader | Georgia Escardille |
| Altar Guild | Ilene Kersten, Arlene Shecter |
| Counters | Andy Martinsen, John & Edna Schwenk |
| 2/14/2016 | Service of the Word |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Patti Finn |
| Lay Assistant | Lori Meola |
| Altar Guild | Ilene Kersten, Arlene Shecter |
| Counters | Don & Rita Solt, Annette Carson |
| 2/21/2016 | Setting 10 Communion |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Cindy Oser |
| Lay Assistant | Andy Martinsen |
| Altar Guild | Rita Solt, Linda Winter |
| Counters | Don & Rita Solt, Annette Carson |
| 2/28/2016 | Service of the Word |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Billy Clark |
| Lay Assistant | Lynda Jones |
| Altar Guild | Rita Solt, Linda Winter |
| Counters | Don & Rita Solt, Annette Carson |

February Server Schedule

| LENT | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ash Wednesday/Midweeks | 7:00pm |
| 2/10/2016 | Ash Wednesday |
| Acolyte | Wayne Degen |
| Lay Assistant | Andy Martinsen |
| Altar Guild | Gail Blinstrub, Arlene Shecter |
| 2/17/2016 | Midweek |
| Lay Assistant | Lori Meola |
| Altar Guild | Linda Winter, Rita Solt |
| 2/24/2016 | Midweek |
| Lay Assistant | Deb Farnham |
| Altar Guild | Lori Meola, Cindy Oser |



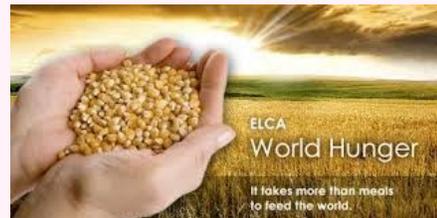
Here's Where Your Pennies Go

Luke
10:37

“Which of these three was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him,.....

....GO AND DO
LIKEWISE

Thank you for generously supporting the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. With our gifts and with prayers, service, and advocacy, we answer Christ's call to “Go and do likewise.” This “going and doing” makes a life-saving difference for neighbors near and far. ELCA World Hunger is a connected, comprehensive, and compassionate program that helps individuals and communities break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Your gifts make a difference in our fight to end hunger. Each gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal is a promise to our neighbors around the world and around the corner that they are not forgotten, that their hunger and thirst will not go unnoticed. God Bless and keep you as you, **“Go and do likewise.”**



Dear Redeemer Lutheran Church,

*“What has come into being in the Word was life,
And the life was the light of all people.”
The Nativity of Our Lord.
John 1:3b-4 (NRSV, Emended)*

Thank you for your recent gift of \$584.00 to Flooding—United States. Your faithful support makes a difference for families and communities in need of food and water, housing and health care, safety and security.

Your gifts make it possible for Lutheran Disaster Response to work with churches and companions to respond in times of greatest need, both immediately and for as long as it takes to rebuild, reclaim and recover.

Together we are doing what none of us can do alone. As the ELCA, we are accompanying, providing and encouraging—bringing help, hope and healing.

Thank you for responding in faith this holy season to Christ, the light and life of all people.

In Christ's service

Rev. Daniel Rift, Director ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Sharing God's Bounty

Each household has its own routine. We go to work; we help the kids with their homework and attend their events; we make the meals, clean the house, and do the laundry. Our days are full – sometimes too full. So full that time for the Lord is abbreviated or omitted altogether. Then comes Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It's just what we need to get back on track. We gather together for worship. We hear again about Jesus' ministry, about the events that eventually lead up to his crucifixion, about his zeal for the Lord's house. We hear his prayer for his disciples and his words of comfort and preparation to them.

Our hearts are turned to Christ instead of toward ourselves. We ask for grace to love and serve as he did, sacrificing self for the good of others. *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). Paul comments, *"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:7-8). God loved and chose us, the unlovely, to shed his grace upon. We are reminded that, *"since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"* (1 John 4:11).

"Love one another." Not just our close friends or those who agree with us, but *"one another."* We can't do it, can we? Some people are just too hard to love. Some people are not deserving of our gifts and our attention. Some people aren't interested in the love we have to offer. The command remains: *"Love one another."*

Now is a good time to read John 15. Here we find the secret of loving and serving. Here we find the source of love, of faith, of everything we need. That source is Jesus. He is the Vine. He sustains and nurtures us, the branches. He enables us to bear fruit, to *"love one another."* He calls those who obey him. His friends and tells us he will give us whatever we ask in his name. So we pray, Lord, let us *"love one another."*

Too often we fail to understand that Christian instruction about money is one of the best opportunities we have to teach our children about God's love for us, and his ownership of all things.

The way we use money is the extension of our personal characteristics.

By teaching our children the Christian use of money, affording them control of money and the need to make decisions about money, we also confront them with the meaning of discipleship and Christian stewardship.

WELCA



YOU'RE INVITED
To a WELCA Meeting &
TEA PARTY

Tuesday, February 16
7:00 PM
in the Parish Hall



Bring a photo of yourself from the past for sharing.
We'll guess who!

Library Gift Shop

- Visit the Library Gift Shop set up in the library area of the parish hall. This very small shop is always open with a convenient honor payment system.
- Proceeds go to the current fund.



Cookoff & Game Night



Winners!

Entree: Karen Kondrk and Dolores Danielson

Dessert: Marge Einenkel

Everyone enjoyed sampling the entries and had a wonderful time visiting and fellowshiping with each other!

Legacy Story– Lori Meola



Loretta (Lori) Meola was born on March 30, 1958 at Delaware Valley Hospital in Bristol, PA. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1976. Lori still lives on the same street in Levittown that she grew up on.

Her parents Walt and Emily were married at Redeemer on December 15, 1945. Lori and her two brothers, Lew and Eddie were all baptized at Redeemer. Although they didn't attend church often while growing up, they were taught to have a strong faith.

Redeemer was always her mother's church. She attended Sunday School with Ruth Schwartz and received perfect attendance pins for many years.

Lori's Mom passed away when she was sixteen, so when it came time for her wedding, it was very important to her to be married at Redeemer. Lori and Sam were married on April 29, 1978. They have two children, Sam (now 37) and Amy (now 34). Both were baptized, attended Sunday School and were confirmed here at Redeemer. In fact, during those years when her children were attending Sunday School, Lori's father made the wooden animals for the Nativity Scene in the Christmas pageant that are still being used today.

For approximately ten years, Lori taught the four year old Sunday School class and was Superintendent for the small children upstairs. She led the pageant for the little ones yearly.

After reading in church for WELCA one Sunday, Pastor Esther asked Lori to become a Lay Assistant. She felt extremely honored! Several years later, she was asked by Pastor Esther to become a Council Member. It was very hard to say "No" to her, so she joined the council. Currently she is a member of the Altar

Guild, volunteers at the monthly Shared Meals and leads the Blessing of the Pets. After Pastor Esther retired, Lori along with Patti Finn provided Communion to some of our members at Wood River Village.

Lori was very pleased when Bunny Elinich and Johann Callan joined our church. Her best friend, Cindy Krajewski joined also and then began dating her brother, Lew. It was great to have them worshiping in church alongside her. She shed many tears of joy when Lew became a member of Redeemer. Lew and Cindy were married here on November 22, 2013.

Lori's son, Sam recently married a wonderful young lady, Sarah. She has two boys, Gavin and Henson, so she and Sam are instant grandparents and loving it!! Her daughter, Amy also volunteers at Shared Meals with her terrific boyfriend, Josh.

Lori has worked at Easter Seals for eight years as a teaching assistant for special needs children. Lori finds it very rewarding and loves it!

Lori enjoys reading but prefers to have an "old-fashioned" book to hold. One of her favorite authors is Debbie Macomber. She also enjoys reading any kind of animal stories. What's her favorite television show? Little House on the Prairie. Lori loves ALL animals! She is a member of The Shelter Animal Project, an all-volunteer rescue group that saves animals from local shelters. Many of their rescues need immediate medical attention. Over the years, Lori has fostered many animals (thanks, Sam!) until they were adopted into their forever homes. Mayor Winkler and the O'Connell family have adopted dogs from her group. All of her pets are rescues – a deaf American Bulldog mix, a Boxer, a cat and two chinchillas.

Lori believes the members of Redeemer are truly a family. She knows that she can count on everybody, in any circumstance, for their love and support. Redeemer has been and continues to be a blessing in her life.



Sponsorships—Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask

Redeemer offers many types of sponsorships for worship and special worship services at Christmas and Easter. The church and our members benefit from this program. The church receives financial help to pay for the items you sponsor thereby helping to offset the necessary expense. The member benefits by having an opportunity to dedicate the items in honor and memory of a loved one, or a special occasion like birthday, anniversary, wedding and to thank God for special blessings or mercies.

Listed below are the items, cost and contact information for sponsorship for weekly services. Please contact these people who are volunteers organizing and ordering the sponsorships. If a request is received in the office it will be forwarded to the appropriate person below, so as not to cause any confusion.

ALTAR & ORGAN FLOWERS:

(call Cindy Oser at 267-980-6260, or email Cindy at cak918@yahoo.com Cost \$15.00 per vase)

BULLETINS:

(call Church Office at 215-757-2724 cost \$10.00 per week)

LECTIONARY SHEETS:

(call Annette Carson at 215-757-4531 cost \$5.00)

SANCTUARY LAMP:

(call Gail Blinstrub at 215-891-1388 cost \$5.00)

ALTAR CANDLES

(call Kim Overbagh 215-499-7556 or IronsidesGirl@yahoo.com (cost \$5.00)

COMMUNION SACRAMENTS

call Kim Overbagh at 215-499-7556 or IronsidesGirl@yahoo.com (cost \$5.00)

Also available at Christmas or Easter (through the church office)

TORCH CANDLES: Christmas and Easter; 2 candles, \$20 each

CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES: Christmas; 1 candle \$13

STANCHION CANDLES: Christmas; 10 candles at 2 services \$5 each

BULLETINS: Christmas and Easter; \$10 each service

COMMUNION SACRAMENTS: Christmas and Easter; \$5.00 per service

If you pay by check for the items you sponsor, please make the check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church and either place it in the plate during the offering or put it in the mail box of those whose names are indicated above. Be sure to indicate the amount, your name and the date of the sponsorship as well as the type of sponsorship.



soup Suppers



This year we will again have the soup suppers at 5:30pm before all of the mid-week worship services during Lent. We need your help with the soup, bread, and desserts. Please complete the form below to sign-up to help.

| Date | Soup | Bread | Dessert |
|---------|------|-------|---------|
| 2/10/16 | | | |
| 2/17/16 | | | |
| 2/24/16 | | | |
| 3/2/16 | | | |
| 3/9/16 | | | |
| 3/16/16 | | | |

Lenten Midweek Services

You are invited to begin this Lenten journey on Wednesday, February 10th with a Soup & Bread supper at 5:30 pm followed by the **Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 PM**. During the service, ashes are offered to those who want them as a reminder of our mortality. Holy Communion completes the worship service. To strengthen our faith journey, we have set aside times for additional worship services during mid-week on Wednesday evenings during Lent. These mid-week services will **begin with a Soup & Bread supper at 5:30 pm followed by worship service in the form of a Chancel Drama each week at 7:00 PM and each service lasts only 30 minutes beginning February 17th**. Come and see how each week unfolds.

February Birthday's and Anniversaries

- 1st Anthony Trapani, Jr.
Cathy Hemphill
4th Joan Dunn
6th Kylie Slaughter
8th Helen Susko
Donald Robinson
9th Barbara Kissinger
10th Sandy Feldbauer
Michael William Ruth
11th Kendra Mason
15th Michael Griffith
16th Lisa Thomas
17th Charles Kissinger
21st Lois Rinehimer
Ashley Thomas
22nd Gretchen Waldkoenig
23rd Trevor Brownlee
24th Lois Hershberger
26th William Parfitt

February Anniversaries

2/28/1970 Fred and Linda Winter



**Visitors and Neighbors:
Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church!**

***Our door is open to you!
We would be happy to have you join us as
a Partner in prayer, in song, and in the
hearing of God's word.***



MISSION STATEMENT

Redeemer Lutheran Church is a caring community of baptized believers, confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior. As a forgiven community, we gather in faith around God's table to hear God's word and participate in the life giving sacraments, which God has instituted through His Son Jesus Christ. Responding in faith we are called to joyfully proclaim the Gospel of our Lord in word and deed in the wider community.