

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 111 YEARS OF MINISTRY



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

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

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

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On the Web: redeemerlutheranpenndel.org



Pastor's Page

The Plenary Session of the Visioning Process!

Many thanks to all of you who are participating in the important Visioning Process!

The culminating session of the Visioning Process, called the Plenary Session, will be held on Sunday, May 22, from noon to 3:00 pm. All persons who have participated in the process are invited. (Those who have not participated are allowed to attend as observers.)

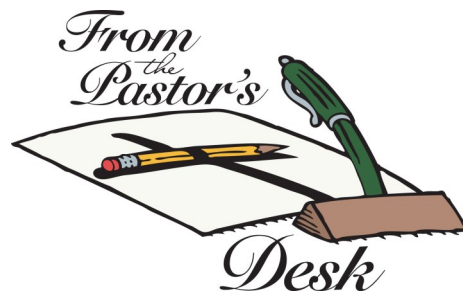
This is when each of our six Visioning Groups will present its Vision and we will then combine the six Visions into one Vision. Then each of our six Visioning Groups will presents its Pastoral Profile of the characteristics needed in the next permanent pastor and we will combine the six Pastoral Profiles into one Pastoral Profile.

The session is scheduled to start at noon and end about 3:00 pm, to allow time to eat and make necessary arrangements. We plan to have food available for those who stay after church.

We look forward to seeing all Visioning Process participants on May 22!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Richard Mathisen



Notes from the Pastor—Worship & Music Updates

The Worship & Music Committee discussed two items of possible interest at its April 15 meeting.

The first item was about doing communion at the altar rail or by intinction. The committee reaffirmed its previous policy of communion at the altar rail on the 1st and 5th Sundays and by intinction on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

The second item was more complex. The bulletin says “Before the service, please speak to God. During the service, let God speak to you; after the service, let us speak to one another. Worship begins upon entering the sanctuary and silence is requested as the prelude begins.” The question arose about socializing in the sanctuary before the prelude. Some members preferred to have complete quiet before the prelude, in order to “speak to God.” Other members felt that it was important to have the opportunity to greet visitors and socialize, because Redeemer does not have a narthex (entryway) that can be used for socializing. Everyone on the committee agreed that talking should cease upon the beginning of the organ prelude. The committee’s decision was to ask the organist to ring a small bell at 9:20 am, 10 minutes before the service time. Prior to 9:20, it was fine to socialize. After 9:20, it was still okay to socialize but we should also begin to prepare for worship and respect the fact that some members were engaged in preparing themselves. We will see how this works out!

Pastor Mathisen



May Events

May 2, 2016 Shared Meal Ministry 6pm
May 8, 2016 Mother's Day and Youth Lead the worship service
May 14, 2016 Letter Carrier Food Drive (mail pickup)
May 14, 2016 Flea Market 8-1pm at Redeemer
May
May 28, 2016 Penndel/Hulmeville Memorial Day Parade (Redeemer will participate)

WELCA - May 2016

Our May WELCA meeting is Tuesday, **May 24 at 6:00 p.m.** (Please note change of date and earlier time.) All women of Redeemer are invited to our Covered-Dish Dinner and Game Night. Come join us for an evening of good food and fellowship. Devotions will be given by Joanne Waldkoenig. Our chairperson for the meal and program is Ilene Kersten. Please return your rsvp form to Ilene Kersten or Rita Solt.

Yes, I plan to attend the Covered-Dish Dinner on Tuesday, **May 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**

Name: _____

Check which dish you will bring: Salad _____

Vegetable _____

Dessert _____

Meat Dish _____

Please return forms to Ilene Kersten or Rita Solt.

Summer Craft Series

Tuesdays, June 21, July 19, and August 16 at 7:00 PM in the parish hall will be the summer craft series to make crafts for the bazaar on Saturday, November 5, 2016.



April Highlights

Shared Meal:

We served 73 people on Tuesday April 5th at our Shared Meal Ministry. Jay from Jay's Steak and Hoagie Joint provided the ham and members provided the pineapple stuffing and green beans.

Upcoming Events

Memorial Day Parade

Redeemer Lutheran Church will be participating in the Penndel-Hulmeville Memorial Day Parade on Saturday May, 28. A vehicle will be provided for church members who would like to ride in the parade. Those wishing to walk the parade route can assist the Youth Group with their collection for the troops.

The Youth Group will be collecting items and cash donations for the troops along the parade route. Donations will also be accepted at the church office until June 1st at which time all donations will be packaged and shipped to our military. Suggested donation lists can be found on the internet. Items may include individually packaged snacks, toiletries, movies, books, sporting equipment - generally anything that ships easily and reminds our troops that we support them.

If you know of a service person who would appreciate receiving a care package, please email their name and address to redemerlutheranchurchpenndel@verizon.net



PENNDDEL COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY , JUNE 4TH, 2016

9 AM –2 PM

Woodland Ave
From Bellevue to Fairview

Many local, county and
state organizations
as well as First Responders,
medical organizations ,
And businesses participating.

Demonstrations, rides, games,
Dunk tank, face painting
SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES.
Food will be on sale at
Redeemer Lutheran Church
And the OLG School

DON'T MISS THE FUN



Council Highlights & Committee Information

Two important congregational meetings have been scheduled to move the Call Process Forward:

[Sunday, May 22, 2016 noon to 3:00PM \(lunch to be provided\) – Vision Plenary Session](#)

All participants in the Vision Session meetings will gather as a single group to review and come to consensus on our mission priorities (Vision) for Redeemer Lutheran and the unique talents and personality traits that we are looking for in a future pastor to assist us in accomplishing our goals (Pastoral Profile)

[Sunday, June 19, 2016 following worship – \(picnic potluck lunch\) - Full Congregational Meeting](#)

At this meeting the congregation will vote on the final Vision and Pastoral Profile prepared at the Vision Plenary Session.

Much thought and hard work has been accomplished by the Vision Session Groups. Please plan to attend these meetings and participate in this exciting process.

Name	Committees		Name	Committees
Don Solt President	Property Chair Finance		John Slaughter	Fellowship Chair Stewardship Evangelism
Diane Anderson Vice President	Evangelism Finance		Sandy Weasner	Publicity Chair Evangelism Chair
Patricia Finn Secretary	Social Ministry Chair Worship & Music		Deb Farnham	Stewardship Chair Christian Education Social Ministry
Kim Overbagh Treasurer	Finance Chair Memorial		Mike Dunn	Information Coordinator
Trish Ryan	Christian Education Chair Worship & Music Youth Group		Brian Schmidt	Property Stewardship
Gail Blinstrub	Worship/Music Chair Christian Education Evangelism		Denise Goccia	Youth Chair Christian Education Worship & Music

Parish Register News and Notes!



Thank you for your sympathy and Love.
It is greatly appreciated
Beth Connelly

Women of Welca,
Thank you so very much for the wonderful gift bag filled with lots of fun things. They will all come in handy for all my visits to the hospital and at home resting.

God Bless,
Sharon Degen

Dear Ladies of Redeemer,
Thank you for the Easter Basket. I greatly enjoyed the delicious treats. The books have helped to keep me busy.

God Bless You,
Larry Patelunas

Thank you so much for the "goodie bag" you delivered to me a few days before Easter.

We're settling in here at Shepherd's - still trying to locate items that were packed, perhaps never to be found again. Our cottage is quite nice and amazingly the furniture we brought fits well. Still trying to catch up on sleep which went by the wayside the past few months.

Again, thank you and the women of Redeemer who helped in the "goodie bag" endeavor.

Love,
Shirley Brendlinger



Dear Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Bucks County Housing Group Board of Directors, Staff, and the families we serve at our Supportive Housing Shelters, thank you for your generous donation of \$210.00 in Walmart gift cards received on 3/17/16. This will help make a very happy Easter for our families.

BCHG has been serving homeless and impoverished residents since 1979. Thank you for your support in helping us to accomplish our work with our less fortunate neighbors.

Edited for length

Sincerely,
Kathleen Dorrian, Client Resource Coordinator



Our basket
with the gift
cards for
BCHG

Dear Members of Stitching Angels,

The prayer shawl is very thoughtful and helpful as well as beautiful, nice and kind. The time and talent put into it is amazing and I will cherish it always. (I have used it each time I go to the hospital. Thank you so much for thinking of me enough to present to me.

Warmly,
Sharon Degen



Food Pantry



Karen Kondrk was presented with a check in the amount of \$1,000 for the Redeemer Lutheran Food Pantry. The donation was made by the Bucks County Community Foundation.

Foundation members, George Hyjurick, David Preston, and Robin Kemmerer visited the pantry to see how it functions and to present the check.

Thank you to the Foundation!!!

Graduate Information Needed



Calling all students who will be graduating from High School, College, & Trade Schools this year.

Please contact the office to let us know; and also send a picture and a short note about where you attend, your interests and plans following graduation.

Call Holly at 215-757-2724 or email to redeemerlutheranchurchpenn-del@verizon.net by May 16, 2016 so they can be printed in the June newsletter.



LETTERCARRIER FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY MAY 14, 2016

Letter carriers will be collecting food for local pantries on Saturday 5/14/16. Everyone is asked to donate a bag or two full of canned and non-perishable food items.

Redeemer's Food Pantry is a recipient of this drive. This is a great opportunity to easily support the community.

Stitching Angels

We are beginning our eighth year as the Stitching Angels group. It has been seven great years since January 2009 when I started this group with the theme: God's Work Our Hands, an outreach to the community to knit, crochet and sew items to be donated. Some weren't sure they could learn to knit or crochet. Others could not read patterns. But other more experienced members taught the ones who needed help. And with the help of the CareWear newsletter, we started our history of Stitching Angels (thank you to Jean Lippincott for recommending our name).

I was looking back at the agencies we have donated to and the amount of items they have received. We have provided to St. Mary Hospital, Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington Hospice, Special Olympics, Veterans Home in Philadelphia, Homeless Shelter in Penndel, Shared Meal, Lower Bucks Hospital NICU, Redeemer Lutheran, Penndel Police, Project Linus, Christmas at Sea for mariners at sea, Headstart, Capital Health, and Relay for Life with the following totals for each year:

2009	440 items
2010	511 items
2011	723 items
2012	895 items
2013	615 items
2014	382 items
2015	<u>437 items</u>
Total	4,003 items



What a great accomplishment in seven years. I am very proud of all of you! After thoughtful prayer and seven years of leading the group, I feel I need a break and have decided to step down as leader of the group as of the end of March and would like to offer the opportunity of leading this group to someone who would like continue our mission.

Helen Susko
Chair, Stitching Angels

Stitching Angel Notes



Representing Redeemer's *Stitching Angels*, Kay Robinson and Marty Ditcher attended St. Mary Medical Center's 2016 Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 14th at "Celebrations" in Bensalem.

The *Stitching Angels* knit and crochet blankets and baby items for the hospital. The group meets Thursdays at 7pm. Contact Rita Solt or Linda Winter for more information.



World Wide Knit in Public Day at Redeemer

Saturday, June 18, 2016

Bring Your Knitting

A Bag Lunch

A Lawn Chair

**We will knit on the church lawn under the trees.
Beverages and Desserts will be provided .**

Prayer Concerns

Members: Dee Grover, Jane and Lynn Leppo, Ruth Schwartz, Marty Ditcher, Alice Skinner, Jean Lippincott, Helen and Jim Susko, Sharon Degen, Toni Carra, Cindy Oser, Winnie Ferguson, Marsie McMullen, Christina Jackson.

Relatives and Friends of our Members: John Hrywnak, Lawrence Patelunas, Dennis Green, Jack Dilorio, Jim McMullen, Patti Hiller.

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 May

On Sunday **May 8th** we will pray for: – John & Edwina Seyferhelt, John, Michelle and Amanda Seyferhelt, Arlene Shecter, Donna Picone, Blanche Short, David & Cindy Short and children Jason and Julie

On Sunday **May 22nd** we will pray for: – Donna Sickler and children Robert & Steven, Alice Skinner, Don & Rita Solt, Christina Spicer, Katherine Suessenguth, and Jim & Helen Susko



Vacation Bible School

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JULY 18-22, 2016



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS - CAVE QUEST

The congregation can help with---- contact Denise Robinson if you will donate ---

Empty prescription pill bottles with lid about 2 ½ to 3 inches tall by 1 ½ inches wide

Rolls of brown wrapping paper to construct cave walls (\$ tree item)

Left over house paint in grays, brown, purple, blue, white or any color you think might give the illusion of deep caves

Rolls of Clear colored cellophane assorted jewel tones (\$ tree item)

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR HELP CREATING OUR VBS

ENVIRONMENT

Youth Group

Happy Spring,

Hope everyone is enjoying the weather and getting outside. We are gearing up for several things in the next few weeks.

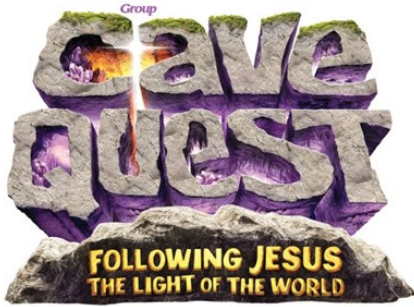
On May 8th, some of the youth will be doing a skit for all the mothers and grandmothers. Make sure you don't miss it!

On May 28th, we will participating in the Pennndel Memorial Day parade collecting items and monetary donations for the Troops. We are need of volunteers to help collect along the parade route. If you are able to help, please contact Denise 215-512-3434. The more volunteers/youth we have, the more we can collect!

Thanks for your continued support!

Jessica Piel

Youth Leader



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
HULMEVILLE AND WOODLAND AVENUES.**

PENNDel PA 19047

215-757-2724

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

REGISTER ONLINE AT

[HTTPS://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/redeemerpenndel](https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/redeemerpenndel)

**Or fill out registration form below and mail
with registration above**

**\$10 per child/ \$25 family of 3 or more sib-
lings**

Pre-school to 6th grade

CAVE QUEST VBS JULY 18-22, 2016 REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

NAME _____ AGE _____ GRADE FINISHED _____

ADDRESS

PARENT _____

PHONE _____

CONTACT PERSON IF DIFFERENT FROM PARENT

PHONE _____

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY ALLERGIES?

PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF:

REGISTRATION \$10 _____ \$25 _____ (3 or more siblings)

Christian Education/Sunday School

Redeemer is still bustling with excitement in our Sunday school and bible study groups. The Elementary classes are diving into Jonah this month exploring God's forgiveness. Our pre-school program, led by Jessica Peil, is available every Sunday for our 3 and 4 year olds. It's a great environment for young ones to experience God's love. If you have a young child or grandchild come join Jess for some bible fun!

Trish Ryan, Christopher Ryan and Wayne Degen team teach our children 3rd and above and Mike Parker, Denise Robinson lead the children k-2nd. Our craft leader, Denise Goccia, keeps the materials ready for classes. Material is adjusted to accommodate the age groupings. Sunday school has 6 weeks remaining and it's never too late to dive in with the kids. If Jonah is a favorite, contact Denise Robinson to see where you can help.

As the spring and summer activities begin please take an hour or so on Sunday mornings for you and your children to refresh for the week through bible lessons and worship. It's wonderful to witness Redeemer youth participating in the worship service, following the service hymnal, singing and taking on roles during worship. The congregation has been very supportive of the youth led worship services and your prayers and support is making it clear to the kids that they are loved.

May 8th our kids will once again lead the service to honor all moms and women in our church. Classes will continue through June 5th.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KIDS HELPING KIDS SERVICE PROJECT – Collecting school items or monetary donations for the Bucks County Housing group. School bags will be filled during Vacation Bible School in July.

MAY

1st - Jonah and the whale

3rd – Shared meal 6 pm

8th – Youth in worship/ MOTHERS DAY SERVICE; **God's Global Barnyard**

15th - Pentecost lesson

22nd – “followers of Jesus” lesson

The Visioning plenary session will meet (these are the groups that have been meeting for the visioning process)

29th Memorial Day weekend- **CLASS WILL BE HELD** – How we are followers of Jesus lesson and service project

JUNE

5th – “followers of Jesus” lesson concluded and year end celebration



Finance Update

Financial Condition for the period ending March 31, 2016

Current Fund Income	\$28,678
Donations/Reimbursements	\$ 1,902
Expenses	<u>\$35,101</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (4,521)

RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES

Building Maintenance	\$ 5,030.00
Raise the Roof	\$13,255.00
Search Fund	\$ 55.00

As you are all aware, we are in the process of searching for a new pastor for Redeemer. With that in mind, be aware that some expenses will be attached to this process. If interviewing a candidate from out of the immediate area, we will need to pay their travel and lodging expenses. Depending on how many candidates we need to interview, these expenses could be quite large. An amount of \$5,000 has been recommended to cover usual and customary expenses.

The Finance Committee is asking the congregation to come together and help defray these expenses. You will find an envelope in your pew marked "Search Fund". Please complete this envelope by giving whatever amount you can and place it in the offering plate.

The people of Redeemer have always come through in times of need. I know this time well be no exception.

Respectfully,
Kim Overbagh, Treasurer

TAKE THIS HOME AND PUT IT ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR

To Redeemer Members,

Every one of us loves Redeemer and we are proud to be part of Redeemer's family.

We also want Redeemers doors to be open for many years to come. In 2014 we started a Raise The Roof campaign. To replace and fix the roof properly it will cost Redeemer \$100,000.00. I know this amount looks outrageous and scary, BUT it is not.

The plan we came up with in 2014 was for Every Family to donate \$2.25 a week or \$9.75 a month or even \$29.25 a quarter or just get it over with if you are able \$117.00 a year. Some of the parishioner are putting there change in an envelope during the week and by Sunday they have the \$2.25. Others wait for the income tax return and then donate the year amount. The problem is that we were supposed to receive \$14,625.00 a year. And that was only counting on 125 families and we have double that on our roster.

We have as of March 1, 2016 a total of \$13,204.50.

I want to STRESS another important factor. This amount we are planning to raise is NOT to replace your current fund offerings.

So Please put your envelope marked "Raise The Roof" with your envelope number so you can get credit for this tax credit donation.

Thanking you in advance for your love of Redeemer,

Diane Anderson
Vice President, Church Council



Legacy Story– Denise Robinson



Denise was born at Lower Bucks County Hospital and grew up in the small town of Fergusville. She is the youngest of six children and the only girl! The day she was born her father looked at the chubby dark haired infant in her mother's arms and said, "Our family is now complete!" Her mother smiled and quietly thanked God that she finally had a girl after giving birth to 5 boys! Their house had two bedrooms downstairs, her parent's room and the nursery, and a large dorm room upstairs for the boys. Eight people shared one bathroom; you can imagine the routine daily to get everyone in and out. Denise can look back and reminisce how organized her mother was in those early years raising all those boys and one girl!

Denise was baptized at Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Croydon, Pa. where her family worshiped along with her maternal grandparents. It was in 1963, when her dad's brother, who was getting married, introduced her family to Resurrection Lutheran Church on Bristol-Oxford Valley Road. (Now Emmaus Road Lutheran Church)

Her father was quite impressed with the minister and later that year the family was transferred as members. Resurrection had a children's choir but Denise never seemed to fit in so the director of music asked her to sing in the adult choir along with her parents. Denise was 12. In those days youth were not confirmed till 9th grade and then you received communion. Due to her intense involvement in school Denise couldn't make the confirmation classes so by the time she was 16 she still hadn't been confirmed. It wasn't until the pastor at the time asked her why she didn't take communion. He handed her the small catechism and another book, and requested she read them. Upon completion he would visit her at home. He asked many questions about what she read and said she passed. Denise would be brought in as a member of the church through confirmation. So technically she didn't go to confirmation class or retreats like her brothers did, but has always been grateful to Pastor Pat for his effort

to get her confirmed.

During 7-12th grades Denise was very active in extra-curricular activities as well as her school's music program and choir at the church. Denise auditioned and placed in the Bucks County and District Choruses every year and qualified for states twice. She graduated high school with honors and was accepted to Lock Haven State College to major in Special Education. But Denise just wasn't ready to leave home. She tried college for a month then called her dad asking to come home. She has mixed feelings **about this particular time in her life but firmly believes in fate, that things happen for a reason.** She needed to be home.

Denise applied for a job with Woolworth which was opening a new store in the Oxford Valley Mall. She helped stock the store for opening and was head of the house ware department, then transferred to the store office as merchandiser. It was a few months later that her father passed away suddenly. Denise was only 18. She firmly believes God sent her home from college to spend those last few months with her dad and to be there for her mom. Life would definitely have gone down another road if she had stayed in school. Before her father's passing, Denise reconnected with one of her brother's friends. Paul Robinson. They dated twice and one evening she told her parents they had met their future son-in-law! And 41 ½ years later, Paul is the love of her life! They got married quickly. She asked her mother to make her wedding gown and the brides- maid's gowns to help her mom cope with the death of her dad. In the mind of a teen this was a good idea! November 1974 she and Paul were married at Resurrection in Levittown and Denise and Paul raised their three children in the church. Yes it was quick and yes she was young, Denise was 19, Paul was 28. Besides singing in the choir, Denise played hand bells and served on council on various committees, the last position being council president during the call process where she first met Pastor Mathisen.

After 42 years at Resurrection, Denise lost her way in the church and felt she needed a change. It was one of the hardest things leaving Resurrection because of all the memories but her mother was not getting the pastoral care she needed after becoming too ill to attend worship.

Denise's first visit to Redeemer is one she will never forget. Pastor Esther greeted her in the rear of the church like she did everyone and the welcome she received from the congregation was heartwarming. After visiting other Lutheran churches in the area for about 3 months, she again returned to Redeemer. Once again was greeted by Pastor Esther with a smile and a warm hand shake as she said "Good morning Denise, so nice to see you again. Thank you for worshiping with us!" Well that was all she needed. Denise heard the Lord say this is your home. This is where you will find the church family you are looking for. So that September Denise and her mother were received as members of Redeemer. Due to her mother, Dora Bogarde's physical limitations, she was never able to attend worship at Redeemer but Pastor Esther visited her faithfully, giving her the pastoral care her mother desperately needed. The

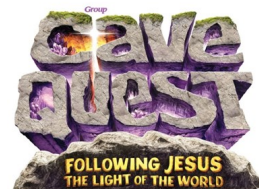
Redeemer Christmas carolers visited Dora for many years and additionally she received the Easter gift bags sponsored by WELCA. Pastor Esther also married their youngest daughter and her husband, presiding at her first ever outdoor wedding and she also baptized their son. The following summer after Denise joined Redeemer; Pastor Esther approached her and asked if she would take responsibility for Vacation Bible School. Never having been in charge of VBS before, Denise did help at her former church, so taking what she had learned from the head of Christian Education at Resurrection, she organized a VBS program in 4 weeks using Camp Creation. And that was the beginning of years overseeing VBS at Redeemer. Again, Denise was approached by Pastor Esther asking her to take the position as Christian Education Chairperson. Denise wasn't sure she could run Sunday school but you all know how convincing Pastor Esther could be.

As a stay at home mom, Denise learned to be a professional volunteer! She was dance mom, soccer mom, PTO volunteer, room mother, scout leader for both boy and girl scouts and of course chauffeur. After their youngest entered school, Denise worked part time in a small plastics firm which allowed her hours to be scheduled around the kid's schedules. With all this volunteering, of course Pastor Esther's faith in Denise made her want to prove the Pastor right. She took on the challenge and 8 years later is doing her best to keep Sunday school active at Redeemer for youth and adults. It is with the help of many volunteers that the Sunday school program is alive and active.

At this stage of their lives, she and Paul are blessed with 6 grandchildren ranging in age from 21 to 1 ½ years old. Five boys and one girl! Interesting how life repeats itself!

Times are difficult for young people now. The peer pressure, school, college, starting a career, relationships, a family. It can be overwhelming. The thought Denise would like to share with our younger generation is to lean on the Lord. Love the Lord and one another. You don't have to go through life alone; He is always with you; through everything you do; with who you are. You just need to open your hearts and let Him in. Serve others and join them in praise of our Lord by attending worship once in awhile. We are all here for the same reason, to hear God's word, practice God's word and walk with Him every day. Many say you can believe in God without attending church. While that may be true, believing in God doesn't have to be a lonely adventure. In the days of Jesus the people met together to hear Him speak and after his death and resurrection the disciples taught His word. They were not alone, you need not be alone. Go and worship Christ our Lord at Redeemer or wherever you may be! Keep Christ alive in your hearts and your home.

*Grandchildren are blessings
sent from heaven.*



May 2016 Server Schedule

May 2016	9:30am Worship
5/1/2016	Setting 3 Communion
Acolyte/Crucifer	Brian O'Connell
Lay Assistant	Andy Martinsen
Altar Guild	Rita Solt, Linda Winter
Counters	Diane Anderson, Bill & Stacy Anderson
5/8/2016	Service of the Word
Acolyte/Crucifer	Patrick O'Connell
Lay Assistant	Kyra O'Connell
Readers	Michaela Hemphill Psalm, Nick Hotalan 2nd reading, Kyra O'Connell 1st reading
Altar Guild	Kim and Gary Overbagh
Counters	Diane Anderson, Bill & Stacy Anderson
5/15/2016	Setting 10 Communion
Acolyte/Crucifer	Billy Clark, Brian O'Connell
Lay Assistant	Bill Anderson
Altar Guild	Kim and Gary Overbagh
Counters	Diane Anderson, Bill & Stacy Anderson
5/22/2016	Service of the Word
Acolyte/Crucifer	Patti Finn
Lay Assistant	Deb Farnham
Altar Guild	Gail Blinstrub, Joan Dunn
Counters	Wayne Degen, Karen Kondrk, John Slaughter
5/29/2016	Setting 3 Communion
Acolyte/Crucifer	Cindy Oser
Lay Assistant	Lori Meola
Altar Guild	Gail Blinstrub, Joan Dunn
Counters	Wayne Degen, Karen Kondrk, John Slaughter

Sharing God's Bounty May

Whom Are You Looking At?

The disciples were thrilled. They had their Lord back in their presence once again. Since his resurrection, he had appeared to them and others several times. They were still a little confused, though, when he talked about *"wait[ing] for the gift [his] Father promised"* (Acts 1:4), and, then, *"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight"* (Acts 1:9).

You can imagine their bewilderment. He had died and been buried and then had risen from the dead! He had walked among them and taught them again, and now he is taken up into the clouds. No wonder they stood ... probably with mouths open ... looking into the sky where they had last seen him.

It took *"two men dressed in white"* (Acts 1:10) to bring them back to their senses. *"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into Heaven"* (Acts 1:11).

Back they went to Jerusalem. Their eyes were no longer on the clouds, but they were still looking at Jesus. They waited. They prayed. They chose another disciple. And they waited some more ... all the while looking at Jesus.

Whom are you looking at? Yes, Jesus had ascended. We can only imagine his joyful triumphant return as all the hosts of Heaven welcomed back the risen victorious Savior. Because he is that Savior, because he is the *"author and perfecter of our faith," "let us fix our eyes on Jesus"* (Hebrews 12:2). Though his Word and Sacraments, he will lead us in his ways; he will teach us obedience and self-sacrifice; he will teach us love for our neighbors. With joyful and generous hearts, we celebrate the new life that Easter brings us by sharing the message of the Cross and the Empty Tomb with all who listen. Keep looking at Jesus until in Heaven you see him face to face!

God comes first, not last. Otherwise, we give him only the leftovers after we have made sure that we have provided for our own comforts.

The principle of sacrificial giving is that our giving to God comes off the top of all that he has given us. Otherwise, some would say it is not a true offering, just a tip left at the table. Pray to be enabled to give generously.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®



MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE

Apply to lead a Thrivent Action Team

Want to help meet a need in your community? Thrivent Action Teams can help you get started!

If you're a member of Thrivent Financial, you can apply to lead a volunteer team in a one-time:

- Fundraiser
- Service activity
- Educational event



Thrivent will help you get started




Bring a team together—family, friends, community members—to make an immediate impact. We'll help you get started with:

- Resources to help you plan the event.
- Promotional items, including Thrivent T-shirts.
- Community Impact Card with \$250 of seed money.

Learn more at
Thrivent.com/actionteam
and apply online.

THRIVENTACTIONTEAMS
#LIVEGENEROUSLY

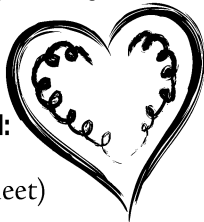


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A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.



What you need:

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!

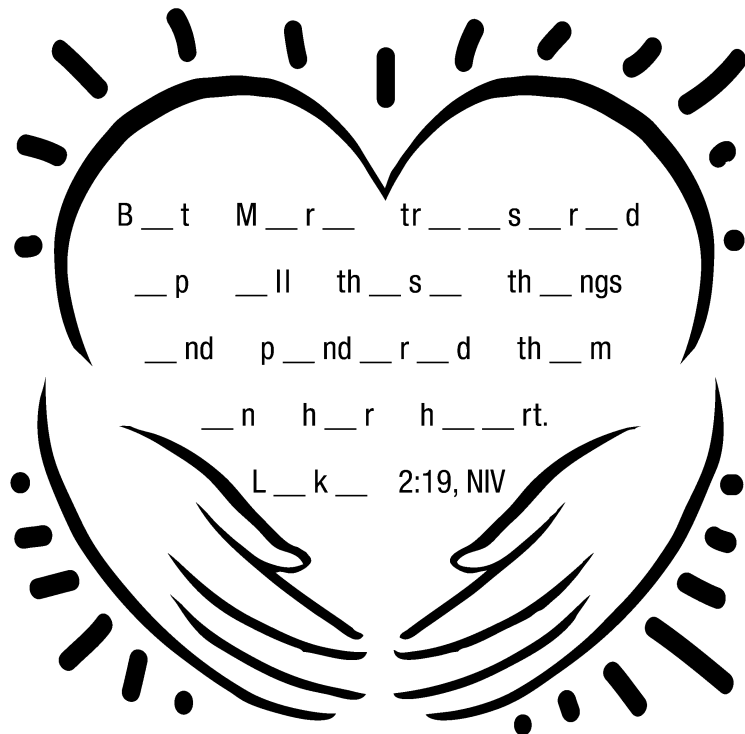


A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.

A E I O U Y



Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV

May Birthday's and Anniversaries

May Birthdays

1st Vicki Ruth
3rd Darrel Martin
4th Marilyn Bilofsky
Lauren Morris
Tyler Slaughter
5th Lew Oser
6th Lenore Miller
13th Lynn Martinsen
14th Linda Lee
15th Rick O'Connell
17th Kenneth Ward
20th Ian Ryan
22nd Christopher Ryan
Julie Anna Martinsen
25th Karen Brown
27th Jim Susko
Karen Kondrk
28th Jane Leppo
29th Amanda Seyferhelt
Ann Marie Winter
31st Sharon Degen

May Wedding Anniversaries

5/09/87 Anne Marie Parfitt-Clee
5/17/80 Bill and Diane Anderson
5/21/88 Patricia & Tom Gallagher
5/28/2005 Michelle & Dean Brownlee



**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.