

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
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US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

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Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

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John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
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Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
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Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
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**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

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**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

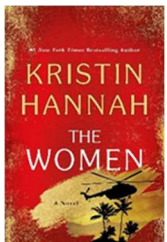
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

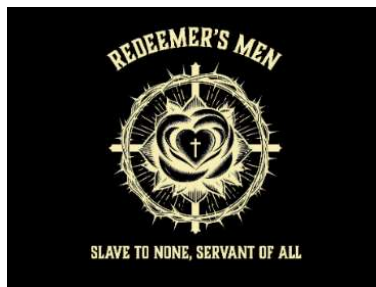


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

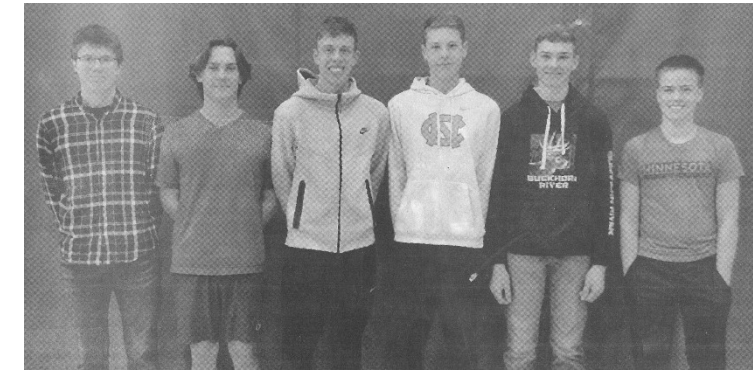


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





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The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

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**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY! This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### CONFIRMAND

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### PARENTS

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### MENTOR

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

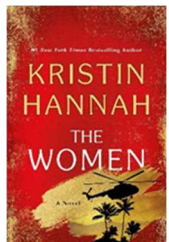
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

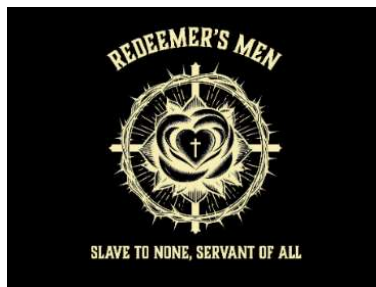


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

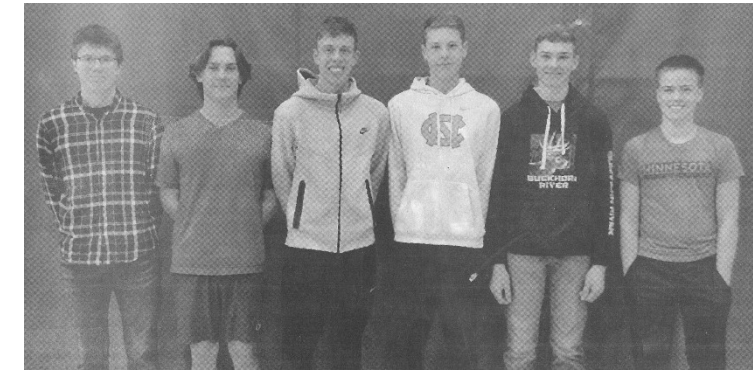


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

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So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

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Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

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God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

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But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

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- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

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- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

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Emma Fosso  
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Jacob & Sarah  
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Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
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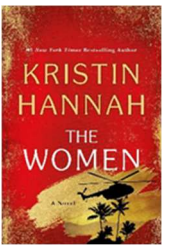
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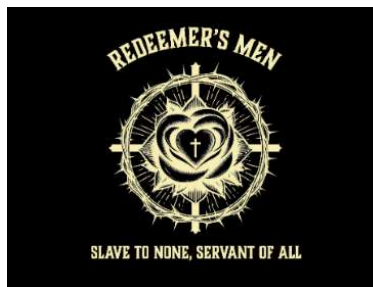


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

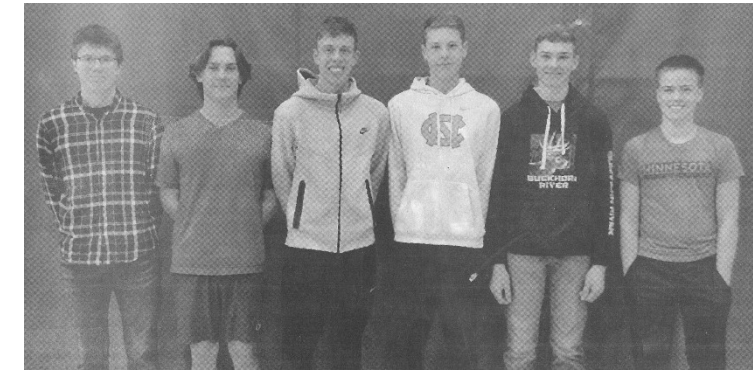


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

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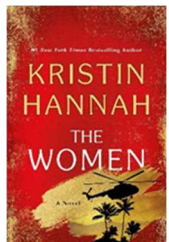
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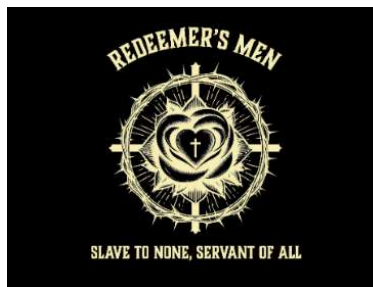


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# †† MAY 2025 ††

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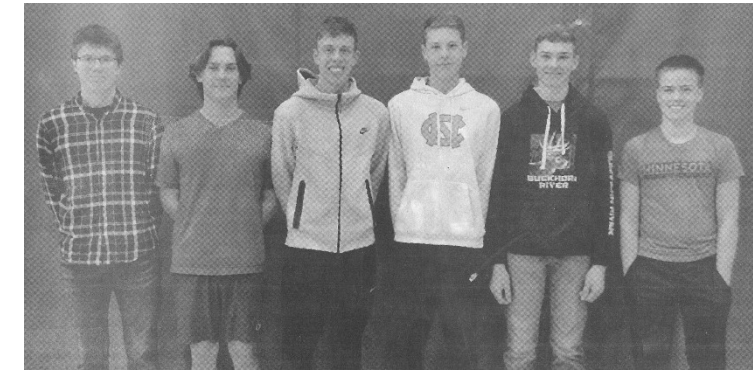


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"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
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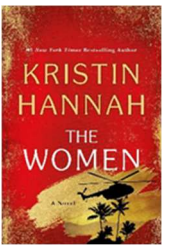
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

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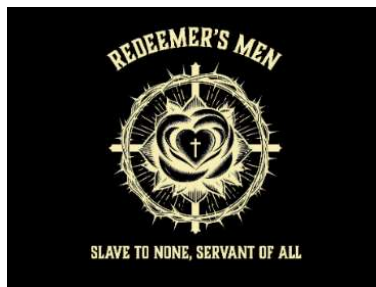


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In Christ,  
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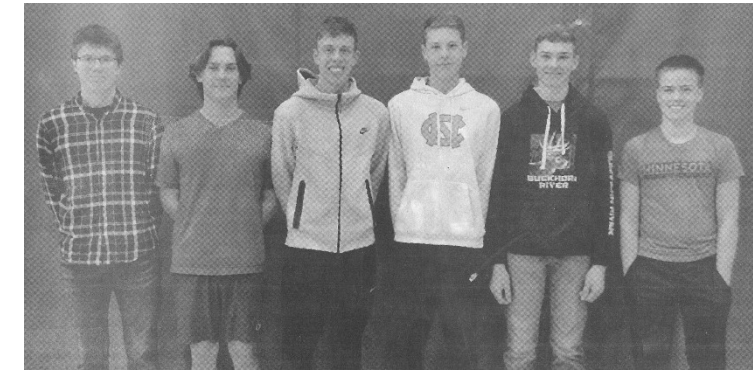


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## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

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11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



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**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
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(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
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Willmar, MN 56201

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

**MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

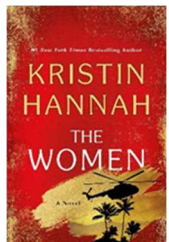
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

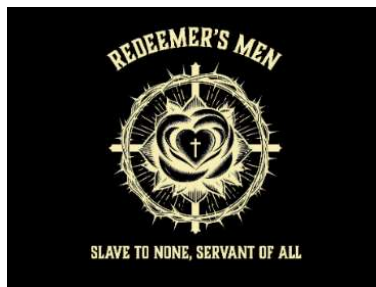


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

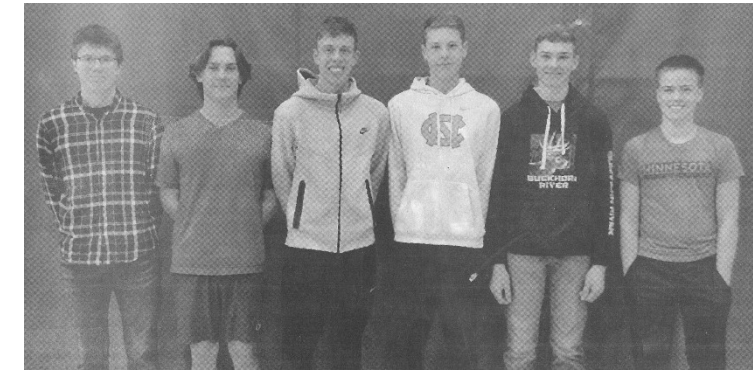


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

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Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

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## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



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Mike & Lori Martinek  
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Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
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Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY! This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### CONFIRMAND

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### PARENTS

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### MENTOR

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

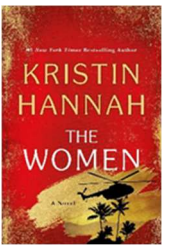
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

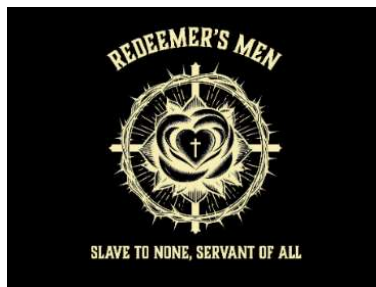


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

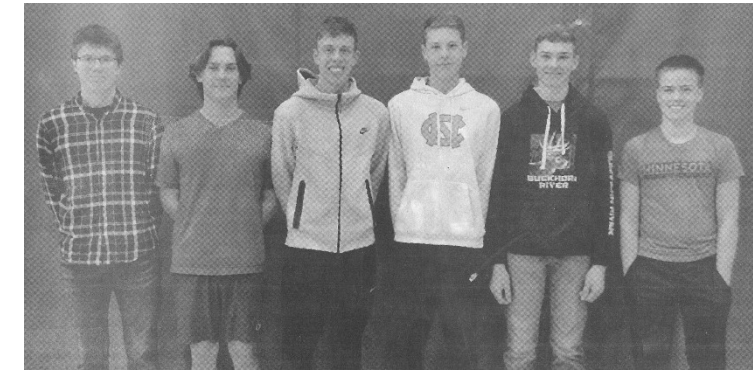


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

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Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

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So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

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- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

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**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

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**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

**MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

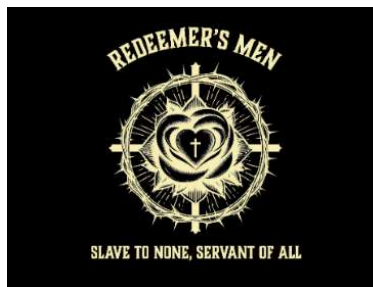


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

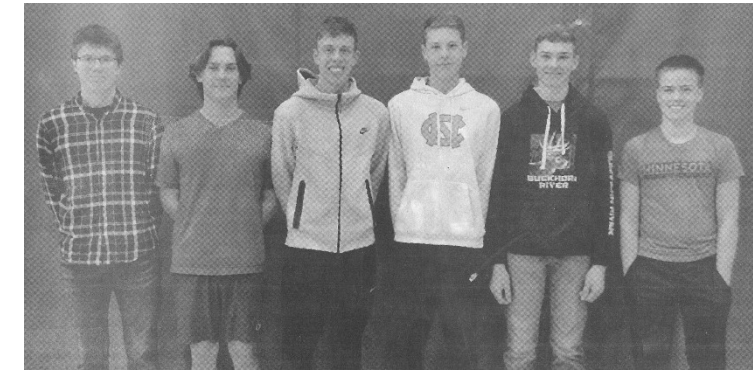


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

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Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

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### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

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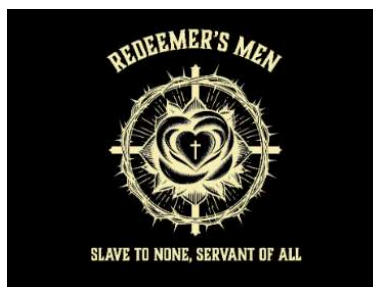


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## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

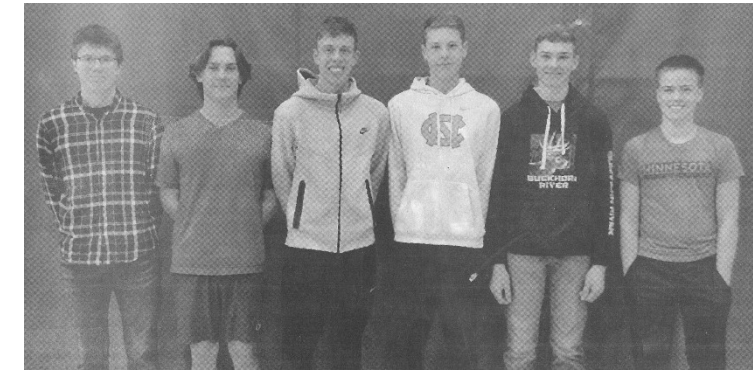


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
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Willmar, MN 56201

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

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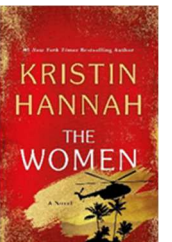
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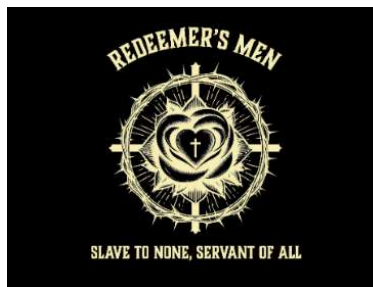


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THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

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In Christ,  
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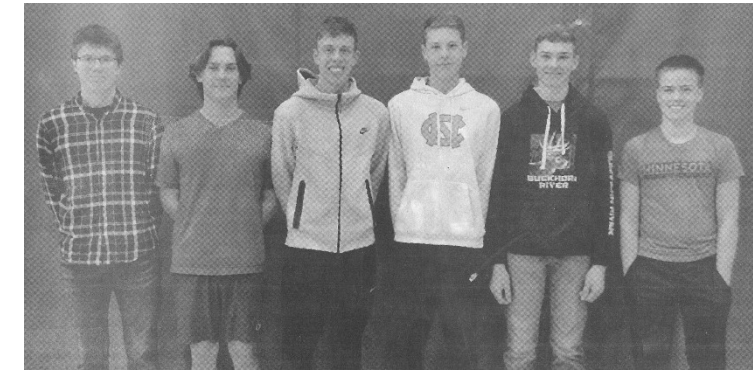


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WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

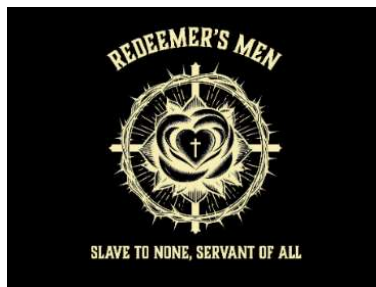


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

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In Christ,  
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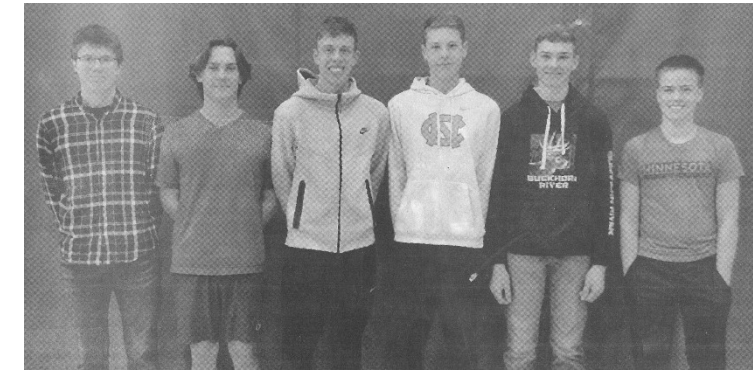


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Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

**MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

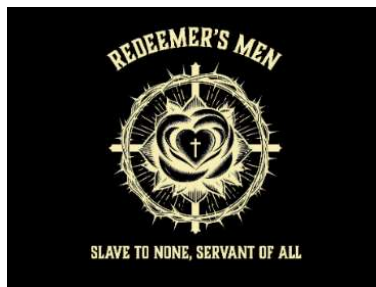


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

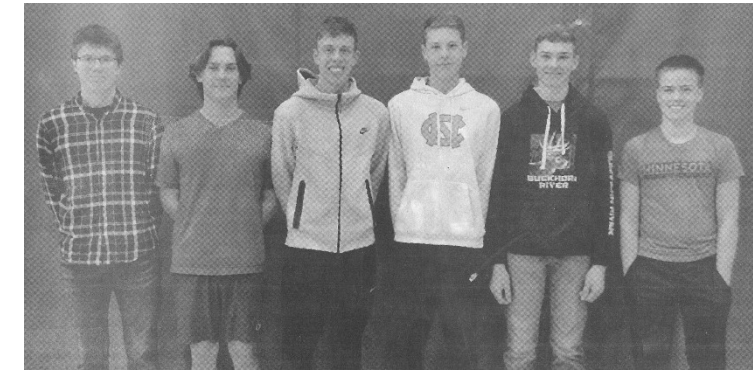


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

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Willmar, MN 56201

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

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Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

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**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

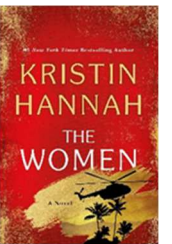
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

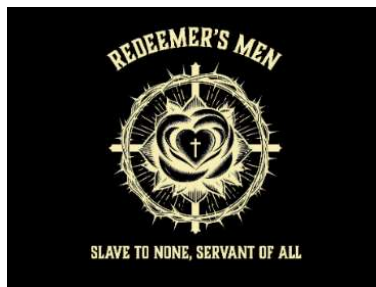


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

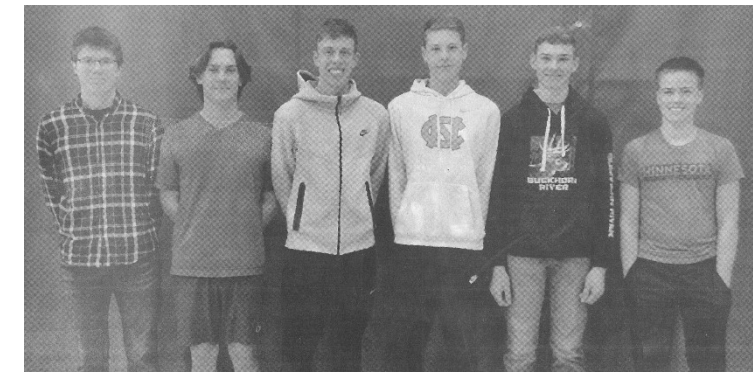


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

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Pr. Donofrio

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Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

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God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

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- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

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- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

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## Did you know . . .

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Stella Berghuis  
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Jacob & Sarah  
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Nichole Gleason  
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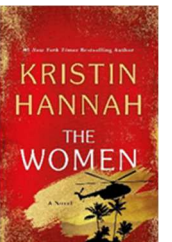
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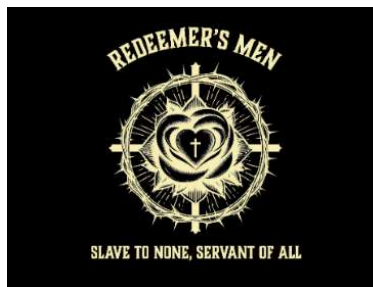


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<u>USHERS</u> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<u>LIBRARY</u> Lorraine King



## REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## BETHESDA SERVICE

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

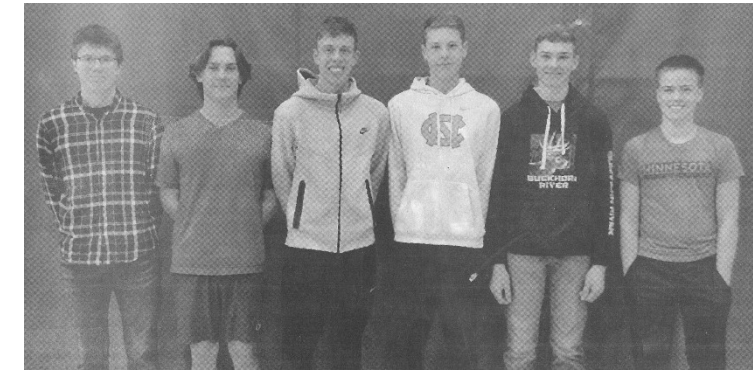


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

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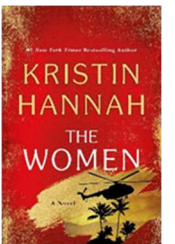
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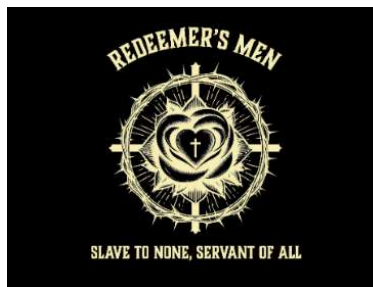


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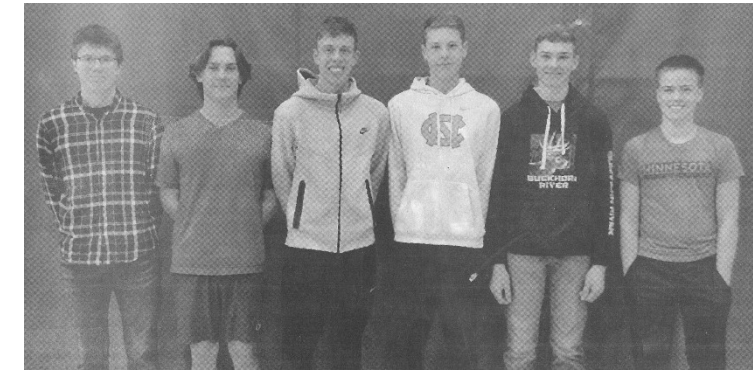


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11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

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Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

**MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

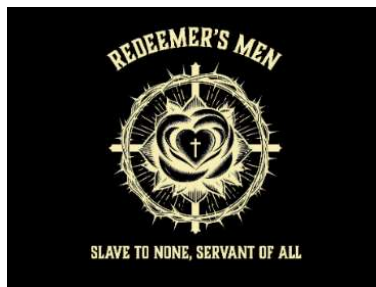


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
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In Christ,  
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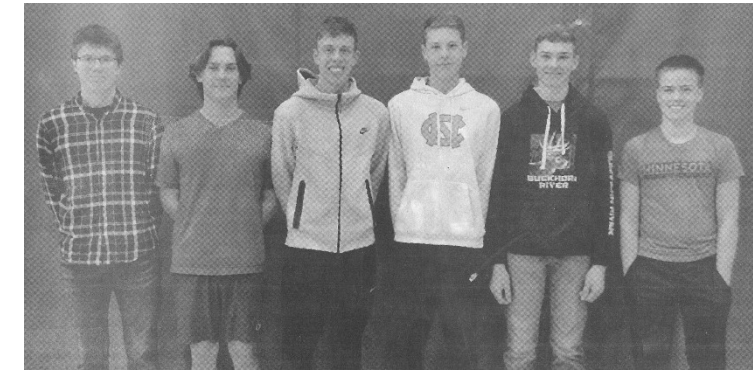


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Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



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8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

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**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

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Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

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<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

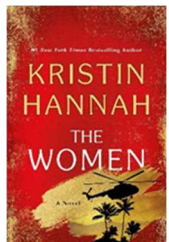
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

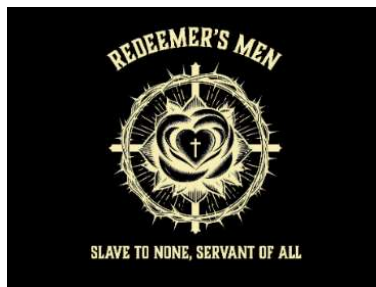


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

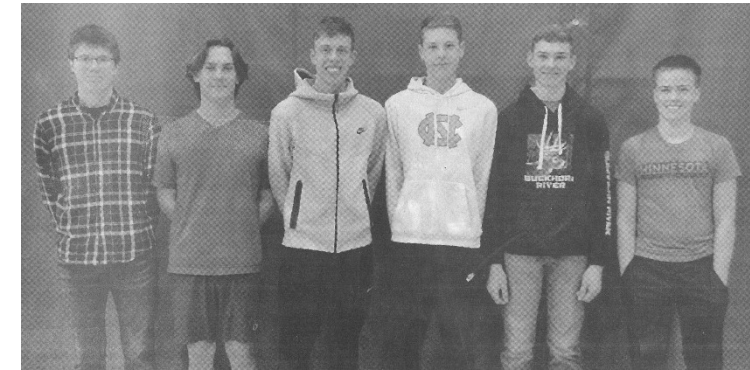


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



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8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

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The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

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Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

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What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

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- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

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**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

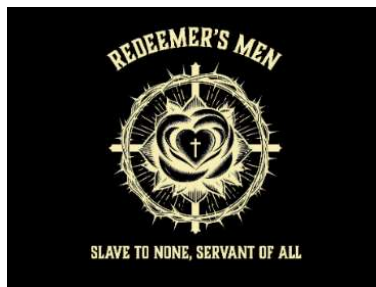


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

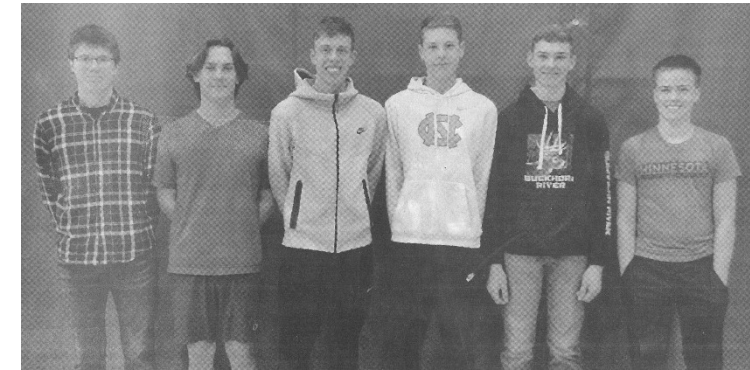


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
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So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

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God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

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But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

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- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

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## Did you know . . .

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Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
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### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
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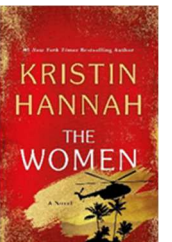
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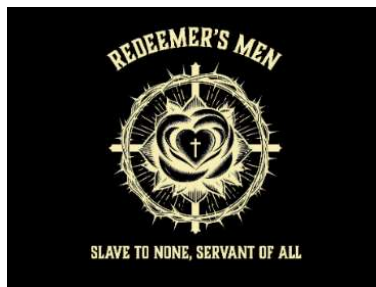


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	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

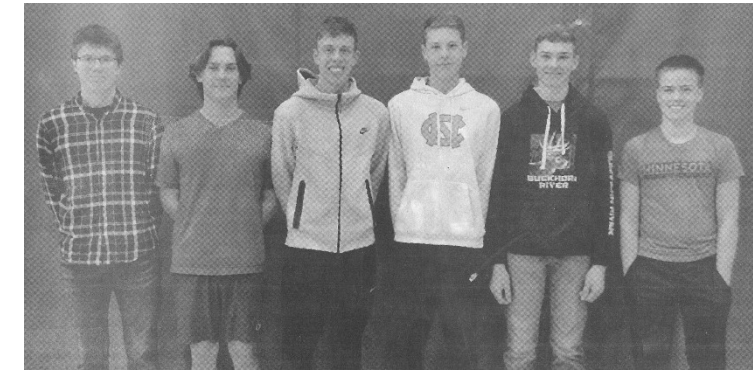


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

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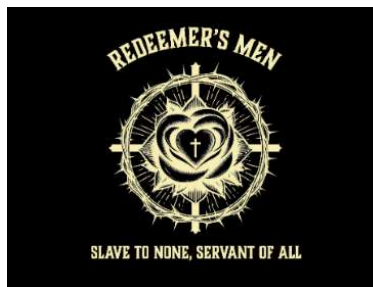


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	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
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In Christ,  
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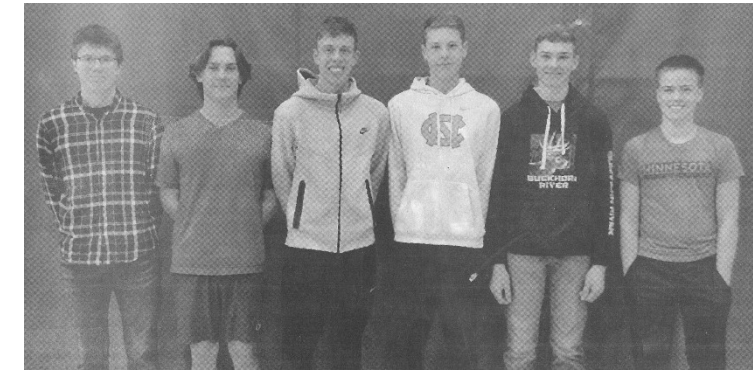


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Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

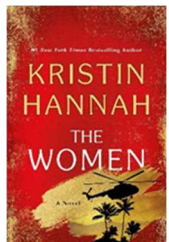
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

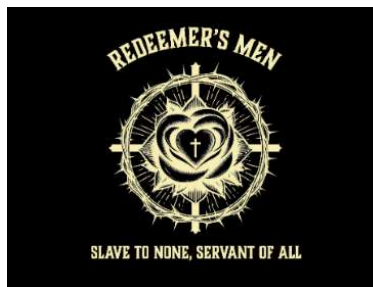


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

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In Christ,  
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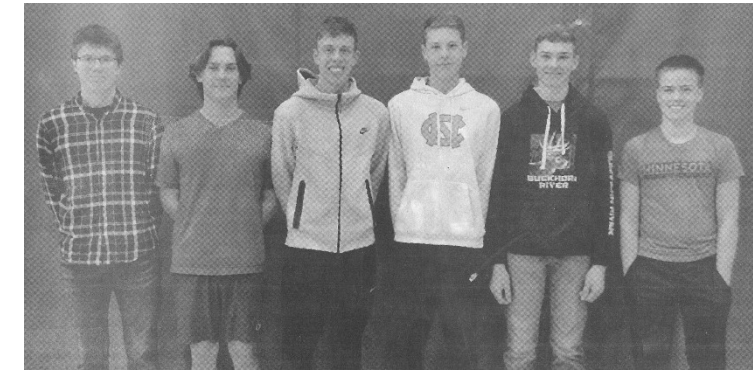


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**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

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Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

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### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

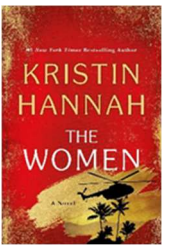
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

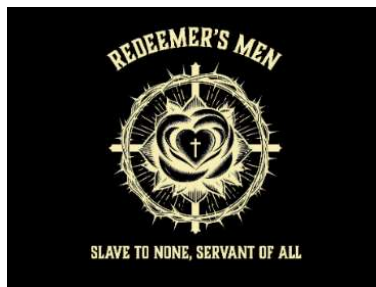


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

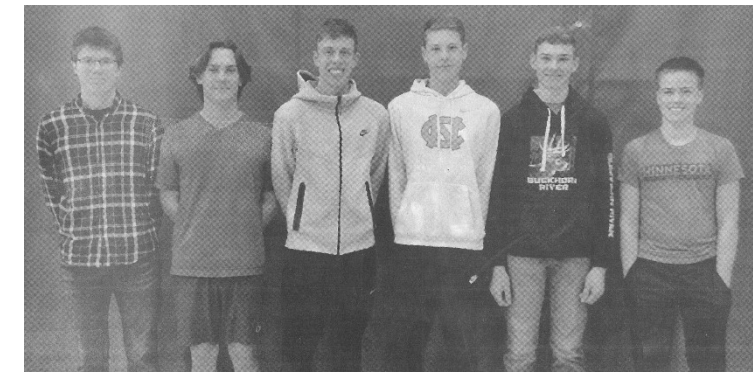


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

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Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

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Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



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Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
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### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

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**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

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The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

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God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

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What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### **CONFIRMAND**

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### **PARENTS**

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### **MENTOR**

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

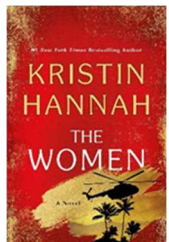
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

**APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!** Are you interested in a church work career? Scholarships are available for the 2025-2026 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by May 15, 2025.

**THE NEXT REDEEMER LADIES BOOK CLUB** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Saturday, June 14th, at Stacy Pollock's home, 6585 156th Avenue NW, Pennock at 9 am. Come to discuss and enjoy fellowship together. A light bunch will be served. Contact Briana Jensen or Deb Krueger for any questions.

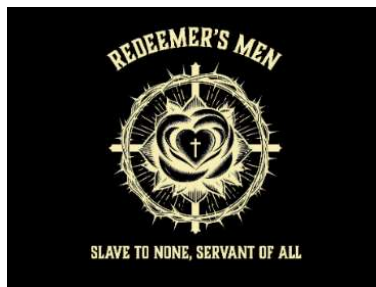


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

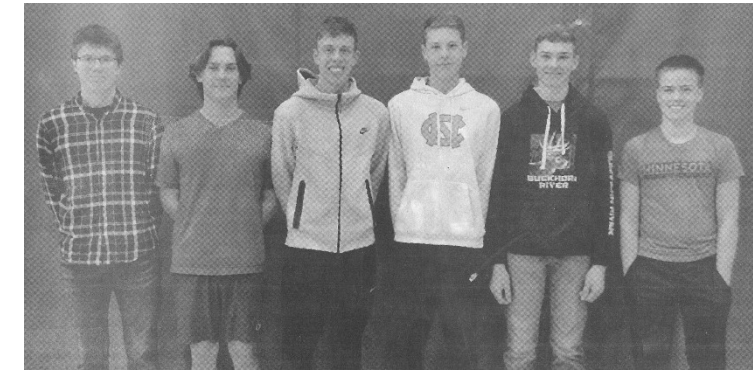


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

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Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

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Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

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God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

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In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
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- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

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- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

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**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

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Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
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Jacob & Sarah  
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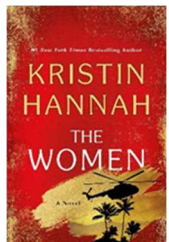
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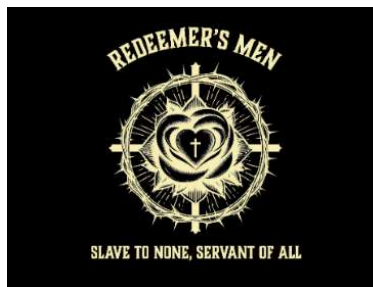


**GARDEN SEASON** is right around the corner. Would you like to have a garden, but just don't have a place for one? Redeemer has garden plots just north of the church and there are just a few spots available. If you are interested in using one of those plots this year, please contact Bill Paterson at 320-220-2588.

# †† MAY 2025 ††

**WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT  
ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann  Stan Skaro	Eli Forst  Elise Reznecheck
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt	Kyan Schroeder Kaylee Cordes
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson  Brandon Kopacek	Ellie Runke  Oliver Berghuis
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson	Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<b>LIBRARY</b> Lorraine King



## **REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP**

The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

**FAMILY OF THE WEEK!** We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

**NEW TO YOU THRIFT STORE** Do you donate items to the "New To You" store? If you do, just tell them to credit Redeemer Lutheran Church for your donation. Each quarter they add up that credit and send us gift cards which we can give to people in need. Those gift cards can then be used to purchase items from their store.

**HOME TO HOME** is in desperate need of chairs, easy chairs, sofas, love seats, kitchen tables, dressers, and lamps. We thank Redeemer Lutheran for all their donations. Any questions, please contact Mike Botzek at 320-444-6604. The Lord has been good and the need is great!

**REDEEMER GIFT CARDS!** Order gift cards for someone or yourself! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the church office or the narthex! The deadline for this month is **Monday, May 12th**. Please try this great service!

**HELP LAUNCH THE CONFSSIONAL CHURCH OF ITALY!** Redeemer is involved in the founding of this new church, but they urgently need support. These small congregations lack essentials like vestments, altar paraments, and stoles. Your donation can make a difference, grab a flyer from the narthex.

**PASTOR'S PODCASTS** If anyone is ever interested in sitting in on a podcast, just come to the church on Wednesday at 11:30 am and you'll see first hand how a podcast works!

**DID YOU MOVE?** Make sure you tell the church office. The post office charges us if they have to tell us your new address!

## **BETHESDA SERVICE**

Pastor Donofrio has a worship service with communion in the Carrie chapel at Bethesda on the third Monday of each month at 1 pm. This is being offered to our members and other LCMS people that reside at Bethesda. If you're interested in joining us, our next service is May 19th.

## LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

THANK YOU! With the generous support of our congregation, we raised close to \$1,000 to buy toilet paper for the Eagle's Healing Nest! How exciting!

This upcoming month we are going to make a meeting change. We are going to pass on meeting in May and instead meet in June. We have the National Convention in Omaha at the end of June and figured we could use a meeting to iron out any last minute details. So, mark your calendars for June 10 at 5:30 pm.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Tim and Char for their commitment to LWML and especially to Pastor for his amazing Bible Studies! They have truly been wonderful. I would also like to extend an invitation to any lady of Redeemer to come out and join us for our meetings.

In Christ,  
Brooke Sellmann, chair

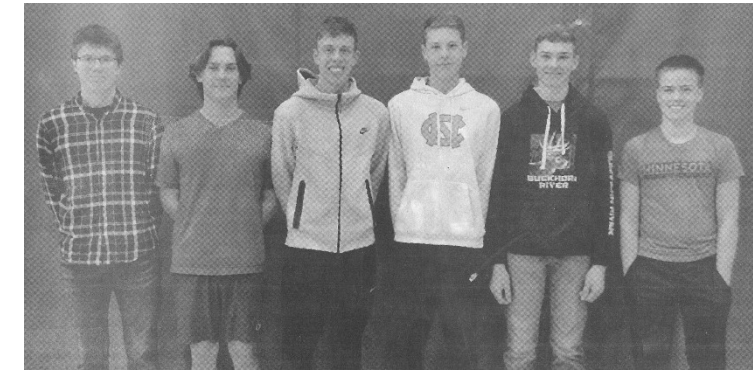


## YOUTH IN THE NEWS!



**March Student of the Month from ACGC High School is Kyan Schroeder, second row from the bottom, far right. Congratulations!**

**The Central Bluejay's varisty golf team. Evan Gustafson is the second one from the left.**



**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

**Address Service Requested**

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

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- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

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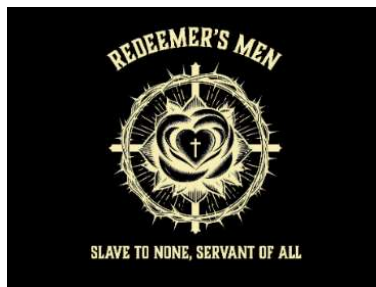


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# †† MAY 2025 ††

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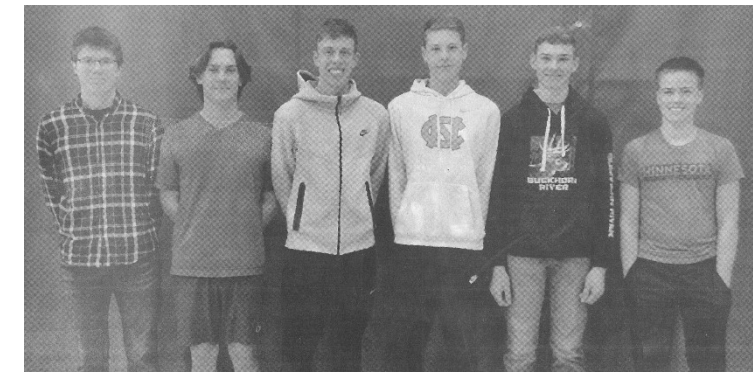


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## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
1401 6TH STREET SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 235-4685  
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org  
www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postal Paid  
Permit No. 370  
Willmar, MN 56201

05/25

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



# 2025

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

*A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Volume XXXV, Issue V

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### EASTER 52 WEEKS A YEAR

In Lutheran tradition, the proclamation rings out: "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with equal enthusiasm: "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This exchange is a hallmark of the Easter season, which lasts for seven weeks. However, have you ever noticed that sometimes, after a few weeks, the pastor might forget to include this greeting? And if the pastor forgets, what about those in the pews?

But here's a fascinating fact: for Lutherans, every Sunday is a little Easter. That's right—every single Sunday of the year is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is because, in the Christian calendar, Sunday is the day of resurrection, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Yet, because He has risen, every Sunday is a day of victory and joy.

Even during the penitential seasons like Lent, when we focus on repentance and preparation, Sundays are set apart. During Lent, for example, if you're fasting, Sundays don't count. They are days of respite, mini-Easters, where we can sing "Alleluia" without worry. Even if an "Alleluia" slips into a hymn during Lent, it's not a big deal. These are matters of church tradition and practice, which, while helpful, are not commanded in Scripture. They help us prepare our hearts with the sorrow of our sin and the anticipation of eternal life with our Savior.

At its core, our worship is always about death and resurrection—the mortification of the sinner (the putting to death of our old, sinful nature) and the raising up of the new creatures we are in Christ. This is the daily life of the Christian: dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ, just as we do every day when we wake up and pray for God's protection and go to bed asking for forgiveness.

Lutheran worship beautifully reflects this cycle. We begin with the invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calling us to remember our baptism, where we were raised from the death of original sin and given new life. Then, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, where God speaks forgiveness through the pastor, assuring us of our pardon. As Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, "When I hear this, I believe that I am forgiven."

As we move through the service, we are built up by the Word of God. The sermon, when preached properly, follows the law and gospel pattern: the law shows us our sin, and the gospel proclaims God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. This is the heart of Lutheran preaching—bringing us face-to-face with our need for a Savior and then pointing us to the cross where that need is met.

## SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

### MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901  
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl  
Matt & Liz Cordes  
John Corti  
Michael & Joy Gratz  
Richard & Dianne Hanson  
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen  
Geri Kling  
Jason & Marlene Kubasch  
Rod & Naomi Lindquist  
Dave & Anita Maras  
Mike & Lori Martinek  
Ken & Cindy Nash  
Terry Pankow  
Matt & Alicia Runke  
Rod & Denise Schroeder  
Mark & Brooke Sellmann  
Brandon & Jessica Smith  
Gayne & Marvelle Stone  
Adrian Wahlstrom

### JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016  
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast  
Michael Baumgarn  
Gordon & Betty Behm  
Vern & Sally Bierbaum  
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg  
Jon & Jessica Friton  
Brennen Gulden  
Steven & Beverly Hanson  
Molly Holten  
Josh & Briana Jensen  
Joel & Sharon Jergenson  
Larry Jorschumb  
Matt & Sarah Juven  
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek  
Jim & Alex Malkuch  
Bill & Deb Paterson  
Don & Carol Ryks  
Charlene Smith

**NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.**

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 6	216	199	54	19	5	
Apr 13	239		48	23	2	
Apr 20	337	236	-	-	-	
Apr 27	159		Voter's Mtg.	25	6	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Out by death: Norman (Butch) Christensen</b>						

**LENTEN SUPPERS Thank You! Thank You!** To Everyone who helped serve the Lenten meals this year. Your commitment to helping out was MUCH APPRECIATED!

**POTLUCK** The next potluck is Sunday, May 18th, immediately following second service. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fellowship.

**SERVING CHAIRS** Thank you Sharon Skaro for stepping up to take over the April serving group and to Cindy Nash and Brooke Sellmann for taking over the May group. Also, to Sally Bierbaum who will co-chair with Doris Ast in June. Please support your serving chairs when they call you to bring goodies or help in the kitchen.

**BURGER NIGHTS** Burger Nights will be held on June 20, July 18, and August 15 this year. Jon Barber and Josh Jensen are coordinating these, so please contact them if you would like to help out. Thank you Jon and Josh!

**THE HAPPY QUILTERS** will be done for the summer but if you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to [www.ForYouRadio.org](http://www.ForYouRadio.org) to listen.

The high point of our worship is the Holy Supper, Communion, where we receive Christ's true body and blood under the bread and wine. As the early church fathers called it, it is the "Medicine of immortality," where we are fed by the Righteous One and given His holiness. In this sacrament, we partake in the very body and blood of Christ, who gives us His life and takes away our death. As Lutherans confess in the Augsburg Confession (Article 10), "The true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there."

Finally, we are sent forth with joy, singing praises to our crucified and risen Savior. Every Sunday, it is fitting to proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" And we say, "Amen—this is most certainly true!"

So, let's remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, a day to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new life and hope. Let us sing His praises every day, for in His resurrection, we too are raised to new life. As St. Paul declares, "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:5).

Pr. Donofrio

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring Redeemer Family!

The Preschool has been so blessed this year by all of you and we are so thankful for that. April has been a very busy month. We had the dad's join us for breakfast and devotions, we played some games and went to the library to explore. We had so much fun! We had an Open House with a bounce house and had several families come and check out our program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Easter and being able to share what they learned with their families.

They have been practicing for the Spring program/graduation, that will be held Monday, May 19th, at 6 pm. We would love for you to come and cheer them on. Gretchen and I are starting to look towards next year and look forward to working hand in hand with the congregation.

God's Blessings to all of you.

Gretchen and Michelle

Teaching, living, sharing Jesus love.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:6-9**

Have you ever climbed a really big hill or even a mountain? When you reach the top, everything looks amazing! You can see for miles, and it feels like you’re on top of the world.

In our Bible reading today, God gives us a mountaintop view—but not just any mountain! This is God’s holy mountain, which is a picture of heaven!

What do we see when we get to the top? A huge feast—the best food ever, a joyful celebration with people from everywhere, and best of all, no more sadness, no more tears, no more sin, no more death. God has taken all of that away!

But right now, we’re still climbing. We’re not at the top yet, but we can see where we’re going. And guess what? Jesus made the path for us! His death on the cross and his resurrection opened the way to God’s mountain. That means we don’t have to be afraid of anything—not even death—because Jesus already won! Anna

#### **Questions for Younger Children**

- Heaven sounds amazing! What do you think it will be like?
- What’s something that worries or scares you? How does it feel knowing Jesus has power over everything—even death?

#### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Think of the happiest moment in your life! How do you think heaven will be even better than that?
- Why will we be so happy in heaven? And why can we already be happy here on earth, especially during Easter?

#### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- What’s the most exciting or comforting thing about heaven from this Bible passage?
- This is an Easter reading! What words or verses remind you of Jesus’ victory on Easter Sunday?

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP:** A lot is happening at camp and the remodeling project. Camp invites you to come and see what God is doing at Camp! **Join them for an Open House on June 7, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 PM**, where you can tour the newly renovated ERC and explore the Camp property. Lutheran Island Camp is excited and can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new space!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?** There are already over 500 kids registered for programs this summer. If you don't want to stay a whole week, they have weekend camps available too! If you would like to go, call them at 218-583-2905 and ask for Dianne or Olivia -- they would be happy to help you sign up. **Redeemer has camperships available for our members AND for your friends!**

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP HAS AN AMAZON WISH LIST:** Check out their wish list on Amazon. Some of the items include giant jenga, glue sticks, paint, scissors, first-aid packs, lifeguard umbrella and tube, pool noodles. . . just to name a few items! What a simple way to help them out.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CAMP:** Head to Lutheran Island Camp on Saturday, May 3rd, as we will prepare the Island for the upcoming summer season! The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up by mid-afternoon. It’s a great way to give back to the Island while getting the camp in shape for summer activities. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org) or give them a call at 218-583-2905. They look forward to seeing you there! If that day doesn't work for you, they welcome you to come another time that works.

### **2025 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25th until August 31st we will go to one service at 9:00 am with communion offered every Sunday. Bible Study will continue at 10:15 am.

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

\*By 1957 Redeemer numbered about 700 souls and 430 communicants. The church was crowded, and it became apparent the basement addition just 5 years earlier would not provide adequate space for the rapid increase in Sunday School enrollment.

\*Beginning in Jan/Feb 1957 a bi-monthly Sunday School paper, named Sunday School Highlights, was published. It included news of class activities, original prayers, samples of written work, etc. It continued for several years.

\*In the late 1950's over 1,500 individuals from around the state registered annually to attend Lutheran Island Camp.

\*An "every member combined fund canvass", headed by Don Norris, was undertaken to prepare for a general building program and raised \$76,000 in pledges. The Schmidt Architecture Company of Mankato was engaged to study expansion needs and building plans.

\*1960 saw Redeemer become a member of the West Central Conference and the Montevideo Circuit through realignment of Minnesota District's conferences and circuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR SHOES!** Remember to save your shoes, boots, sandals, but. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.** Put them in the collection box in the narthex. We recently sent MANY MANY bags to Lutheran Island Camp. We will be taking another load to camp within the next couple of months, so as you are cleaning things out to host graduation and confirmation parties, don't throw the shoes you don't want, bring them to church instead!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** May collections will be "Hygiene Products". Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## MAY 4TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY! This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

### CONFIRMAND

Stella Berghuis  
Kaylee Cordes  
Emma Fosso  
Drake Miller  
Ellie Runke  
Kyan Schroeder

### PARENTS

Jacob & Sarah  
Andrew & Heather  
Ryan & Sarah  
Duncan & Liz  
Matt & Alicia  
Rod & Denise

### MENTOR

Cindy Nash  
Michelle Marotzke  
Nichole Gleason  
Jeff Pitt  
LeAnn Stauffenecker  
Dave Runke

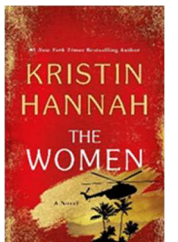
The Confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. There will be a table out in the narthex with card baskets for the confirmands.

**SUNDAE SUNDAY** is May 18th! Join the Sunday School kids for the last day of Sunday School for an ice cream celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15. We will also say thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers at this time too!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** is May 18th at the 10:30 service. Help us celebrate Redeemer's 2025 graduates! Colton Dahline, Emily Johnson, Ayla Moyer, and Jillayna Schroeder.

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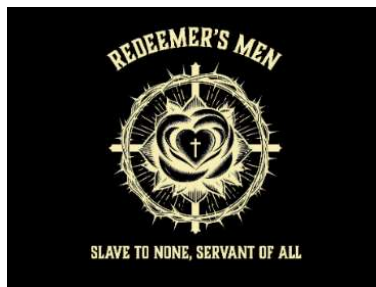


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In Christ,  
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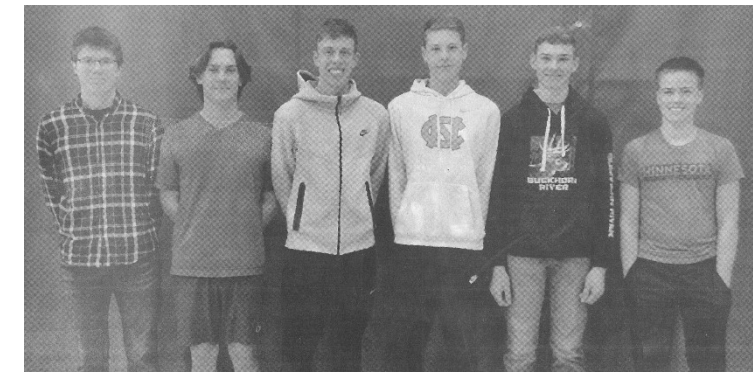


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**The MACCRAY/RCW track and field team includes Emma Fosso, top row, first one on the left and Oscar Lopez, top row, eighth one on the left.**

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

In November 2024, a large, three-day meeting was held in New Orleans. At this meeting, around 15 Bible study planners came together, including those who will present the Bible studies at the Gathering. They spent days discussing the fine theological details of the theme and how it might be applied to the lives of the youth in attendance. They also created content outlines for the studies, from which the presenters will create their scripts.

"We believe, teach and confess that the Word of the Lord is living and active, and I can say that ... I've witnessed the Word of the Lord living and acting in some very powerful ways," said the Rev. Casey Kegley, Bible study team manager. "It's really wonderful when you have 15 people together reading the Scriptures, talking about it, generating big ideas. It's one of the most special joys I've had in ministry."

The programming team also met to tour the convention center and discuss how the layout and content connect back to the theme.

"When the youth are on the thematic floor, how are we living out the theme of building each other up and enduring in Christ?" said Rhonda Palmersheim, convention center co-director.

This year, around 115 different topics will be covered in the Gathering sessions, including both contemporary issues and central points of LCMS teaching and doctrine (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).

"Youth are hungry to hear the truth in God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry. "The Gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce what is being taught in homes, churches and Lutheran schools. It also provides access to expertise that congregations don't have regular connections to."

Attending the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans include Jack, Eva, and Stella Berghuis, Madie and Ellie Runke, and Emma Fosso. Adult Leaders include Vicar Michael Baumgarn, Sarah Berghuis, and Sarah Fosso. Please keep these Gathering attendees in your prayers and pick up a prayer card on the Welcome Desk to hang on your fridge!

Also attending "Higher Things" in Seward, NE is Jillayna Schroeder on July 8-11th.



## GET TO KNOW A YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANT

### JACKSON BERGHUIS

11th Grader at Willmar High School

Activities: Working at Walt's Car Wash, and with my dad helping with construction.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Fun Fact: This is my 2nd Youth Gathering.

Interesting Fact: I'm a cancer survivor.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I had a lot of fun in Houston in '22 and I learned a lot about my faith. The classes and Bible studies were really good.



### ELLIE RUNKE

8th Grader at Willmar Middle School

Activities: Confirmation Student, Theater, Hockey, Volleyball, JO Volleyball, Choir, Dance

Favorite Bible Verse: "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

Fun Fact: I really like to bake.

Why I'm Excited to Attend: I want to get closer to God and His word.

