

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**  
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4/26

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# Go Disciple All Nations

## *Sharing Christ, Changing Lives*

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Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



2026

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## IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

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

Volume XXXVI, Issue IV

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### The Story of Confirmation in the Lutheran Church

Confirmation Sunday is coming next month! Confirmation brings robes, nervous smiles, family photos, and maybe a big party afterward. For many families, it feels like a major milestone. But what is confirmation in the Lutheran Church? It is not a sacrament like Baptism or the Lord's Supper. Instead, it is a helpful church practice that points us back to what God has already done.

In the early Church, confirmation was not a separate event. Baptism included everything: water, the sign of the cross, anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands. All of it came together as one gift. God gave forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit through His Word and promise. Infants were baptized and often received the Lord's Supper soon after. There was no need for a later step.

As the Church grew, bishops could not be present at every baptism. Over time, the laying on of hands was separated and became its own rite, usually done later. By the Middle Ages, some began to teach that confirmation completed Baptism or added extra grace. The Roman Church even counted it as one of the seven sacraments.

Martin Luther saw a problem with that idea. In 1520, he wrote that confirmation has no clear command from God and no promise attached to it. Because of that, it cannot be a sacrament. More importantly, Luther was concerned that people might think Baptism was not enough. But in Baptism, God already gives everything: forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, and new life.

Rather than add new rituals, Luther focused on teaching. He wrote the Small and Large Catechisms to help people understand the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments. He did not reject confirmation entirely. He supported examining young people in the faith, praying for them, and even laying hands on them, as long as everyone understood that nothing was being added to Baptism.

The Lutheran Confessions say the same thing. Practices like confirmation are useful and good, but they are not necessary for salvation. They are human traditions that serve the Gospel.

## SERVING GROUPS

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

### APRIL

Sharon Skaro – 320-894-7247

Bryan & Christin Aeikens

Lisa Bjerke

Verdell & Val Bjerketvedt

Jim & Gayle Braun

Jason Connelly

Cindy Cordes

Luther & Peggy Dykema

Kathy Ecklund

Brian & Jackie Frank

Joe & Darla Hammerschmidt

Todd & Allison Hillenbrand

Loren & Dianne Kruse

Duncan & Elizabeth Miller

Brenda Munsterman

Craig Nissen

Dave & Carol Runke

Jerry Schleh

Kim & Deb Setrum

Dexter & Karen Wermers

### 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

David Moser

Ken & Cindy Nash

Terry Pankow

Matt & Alicia Runke

Rod & Denise Schroeder

Mark & Brooke Sellmann

Brandon & Jessica Smith

Gayne & Marvelle Stone

Adrian Wahlstrom

**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.**

## **LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS**

Check out Lutheran Island Camps website for more information about these retreats and to register.

**QUILT RETREAT – APRIL 8-12**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT – APRIL 17-19**

**SPRING CLEAN UP AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP** is May 2, 2026, The day will begin at 8 am, break for lunch, and wrap up around 2 pm. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to licbusiness@islandcamp.org or give them a call at (218) 583-2905.

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS** are available if your child is interested in attending this year! Forms for these scholarships can be found in the church office. Scholarship codes will be given out upon request and online registration is required to use the codes. Please let the church office know when your child will be attending camp. Contact the church office for more information.

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Mar 1	137	116	28	15	0	
Mar 8	147		50	17	0	
Mar 15	Cancelled					
Mar 22	159		36	14	0	
Mar 29						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>In by affirmation of faith: David Moser, Nicholas &amp; Allison Moser, Bruce &amp; Judy Kastel, Troy Travis, Jeffrey &amp; Linda Weitzel</b>						
<b>Out by Death: Timothy Hentz</b>						

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON EASTER SUNDAY!** Join us from 9:15-10:30 in the Fellowship Hall for Easter Breakfast! This year's menu is pancakes, sausage, fruit, milk, juice, and coffee.

**A NEW ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM has been rolled out in the sanctuary. Headphones and receivers are available in the narthex near the mailboxes. If you have hearing aids or are purchasing, check to see if they are Hearing Loop (telecoil) or Auracast compatible for easier listening.**

The form of confirmation we know today began to take shape in the 1500s. It included instruction in the catechism, a public confession of faith, and a blessing with the laying on of hands. Over time, the practice has changed in different places. Some emphasized obedience to the Church. Others stressed personal commitment. Sometimes it even felt like a graduation ceremony.

Today, Lutheran churches try to keep the focus where it belongs. Confirmands are carefully taught the faith. They confess the Apostles' Creed publicly. The pastor blesses them and reminds them of their Baptism. Confirmation is not about proving yourself or reaching a higher level of faith. It is about receiving what God has already given.

So on May 17, Confirmation Sunday, enjoy the celebration. Take the pictures. Give thanks for the day. But remember what matters most: God claimed these young people in Baptism. Confirmation is simply their chance to say "Amen" to that gift and to keep living in it.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Craig

## **PRESCHOOL**

Happy Spring 

The preschoolers have been enjoying hearing themselves on the radio this Easter Season. It's so fun to record with them. Thank you, Pastor Craig. During the month of April we will be doing an ad for the Preschool promoting the upcoming Open House on April 21st from 5-7pm. Please send any and all preschoolers our way.

We have already received many registrations for next year, but will happily add more munchkins to the chaos of preschool.

Upcoming besides our Open House we have Dad's Day fun. We are hoping to go on a field trip with the Dad's. And then after that it will be walking to the neighborhood parks, and our graduation musical. April and May always seem to fly by. Hard to believe that the 2025-2026 school year is coming to a close.

Making this a Joyful Year  
Michelle & Gretchen

The North District Youth Gathering is almost here! April 10-12 will be a weekend filled with Worship and God's Word, fantastic speakers, friends-old and new, and some really great food!

Over the course of the weekend, youth and their chaperones will be affirmed of who they are in Christ by using the words of the Apostles Creed.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, my prayer is that you take time to reflect on who you are in Christ, and the incredible gift of sins forgiven and a life everlasting!

So who are we?

We are forgiven. Even when you mess up, your identity isn't "failure" or "guilty"—it's someone whose sins have already been paid for by Jesus.

We are redeemed. That means we have been "bought back." Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has claimed us as His own.

We are baptized into Christ. Baptism isn't just symbolic—it's something God uses to give us forgiveness, a rescue from death and the devil, and the promise of eternal life. Because He lives, we live too.

We are children of God. Not by our effort, but by grace. God chose us, loves us, and calls us His own.

We are a church with hope. Jesus' resurrection means death is not the end. Just as He rose, we also will be raised. Your future is secure—not because of your strength, but because Jesus lives.

So, your identity isn't based on your performance, popularity, or mistakes. Your identity is this:

You belong to the risen Jesus, and because He lives, you are forgiven, loved, and will live forever with Him.

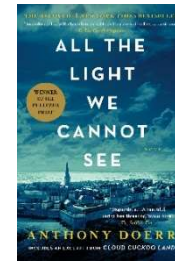
Anna

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.

**JOIN THE QUILTERS – NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** Looking for a warm, welcoming way to connect and make a difference? The quilters meet every Monday at 12:30 pm. No sewing skills required, just bring your smile and enjoy friendship, creativity, and a treat break at 2:00.

**WINTER IS ABOUT OVER!** What are you going to do with all those snow boots you won't be needing anymore? Bring them to Redeemer and put in the shoe collection box in the narthex for Lutheran Island Camp. We LOVE your old shoes, boots, etc.! Remember. . . **NO FLIP FLOPS.**

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!** For April we will be collecting snacks: Beef Jerky, Nuts, Raisins, Granola Bars, Microwave Popcorn, Tuna, Hard Candy, Licorice, Canned Ravioli/Beef Stew, and Powdered Drink Mix. Please place donated items in box located in the narthex.



**REDEEMER WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** Our next books will be "All The Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. We will meet on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer in the trinity room at 9am. Breakfast and coffee will be provided. No need to sign up. Read on your own and join us to discuss the book together. For any questions or need any help getting a book, please let Briana J. or Deb K. know.

**APRIL GIFT CARDS!** 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 narthex! The deadline for this month is Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP** The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Come join us!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who came to my retirement party on March 8<sup>th</sup>. I was truly touched by your kindness, thoughtful gifts, cards, and all the wonderful comments. The past 14 years have gone by so quickly, and it has been such a blessing to work with so many great people at Redeemer. The friendships, memories, and support I've experienced there mean more to me than words can say. Thank you for making my retirement celebration so special and for being such an important part of my life. Lori Schroeder

# Redeemer Trivia (From Our Historian's Desk)

## Did you know . . .

- \*Rev. Richard Hamlow began as visitation pastor in 2000.
- \*On March 25, 2000, June Benson attended a workshop on Parish Nursing sponsored by Rice Hospital. In 2001, Carol Gustafson was installed as Parish Nurse to help meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of our congregation.
- \*Church secretary Laurie Shepard moved to International Falls and we welcomed Maxine Schmit as our new secretary in March 2000. We also received our first DCE intern from Concordia University, St. Paul. Melissa Zappe assisted in the areas of education and youth.
- \*The kick-off for “Building for the Future” building program began in February 2001. \$124,000 in gifts and pledges were committed the first week.
- \*Ground was broken for the expansion of the Fellowship Hall, multi-purpose room, storage, and reconfiguration of the kitchen, library, and Sunday School rooms. During the building process, our neighbors at Emmanuel Lutheran Church offered their church hall for several funeral lunches.
- \*In 2001, we received our 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC intern, Shiloh Alexander.
- \*Rev. Dean Hartley was ordained on May 27, 2001.
- \*In 2001, a pre-school committee was formed to explore the possibility of adding that ministry to our congregation.
- \*On September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked by terrorists. Our worship service the following Sunday focused on the fact that nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus.
- \*Ed Gesch passed away in February 2002. He was the last living charter member who was still a member of Redeemer.
- \*On May 18, 2002 a carnival to promote our preschool was held, including a petting zoo in the courtyard.
- \*In 2002, Leslie Leonard arrived to serve as our third DCE intern from Concordia University, St. Paul.
- \*The congregation celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1927-2002) under the theme, “Praise With Us The God of Grace.”

**ROAD TO RECOVERY GROUP** Are you struggling with addiction? You're not alone. Or maybe you know of someone that would benefit from this group. This supportive recovery group meets at the church every Thursday evening from 6-8 pm. All are welcome! If interested, contact Penny (320) 220-2585.

†† APRIL 2026 ††		
	ELDERS	ACOLYTES
<b>Apr 5</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Matt Akerson Jeff Pitt	Eli Forst Kian Pitt
<b>Apr 12</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Ron Jaspersen, Mark Sellmann Jim Malkuch, Brandon Kopacek	Amyah Hebrink Gus Malkuch
<b>Apr 19</b> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Bill Paterson, Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt, Ron Jaspersen	Drake Miller Charlie Berghuis
<b>Apr 26</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ted Wurm Brandon Kopacek	Finley Hebrink Aspen Krakow
<b>Apr 2 (7 PM)</b> <b>Apr 3 (7 PM)</b>	Jeff Pitt, Matt Akerson Stan Skaro	Amyah Hebrink Elise Reznecheck
<b>USHERS</b> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Ted Wurm, Michelle Corti, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Ron Kassel, Colleen Kassel		<b>LIBRARY</b> Anita Petersen

<b><u>YOUR ELDER FOR 2026</u></b>		
<b><u>ELDER</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE #</u></b>	<b><u>HOUSEHOLD NAMES</u></b>
<b>Ted Wurm</b>	<b>522-2503</b>	<b>Aeikens – Braun</b>
<b>Brandon Kopacek</b>	<b>905-0734</b>	<b>Bremseth – Friedrich</b>
<b>Jeff Pitt</b>	<b>894-3132</b>	<b>Friton – Heveron</b>
<b>Jim Malkuch</b>	<b>220-7393</b>	<b>Hillenbrand – Kirchenwitz</b>
<b>Stan Skaro</b>	<b>894-9450</b>	<b>Klaassen – Malkuch</b>
<b>Mark Sellmann</b>	<b>522-0569</b>	<b>Maras – Obiedo</b>
<b>Matt Akerson</b>	<b>737-0559</b>	<b>Olson – Rodriguez</b>
<b>Bill Paterson</b>	<b>220-2588</b>	<b>Roduner – Smith</b>
<b>Ron Jaspersen</b>	<b>212-1108</b>	<b>Spaulding – Zetah</b>

**2026 GRADUATES** mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3! We will be recognizing the graduates at the 10:30 service that day. Grads, if you do not have your graduate info in yet, please email it to Anna asap!

**2026 Graduates:**

**Abigail Behl  
Jackson Berghuis  
Tangh Conklin**

**Wyatt Dahline  
Chelsea Lopez  
Isaac Marcus**

**Evan Petersen  
Jasmine Petersen  
Andrew Sandau**

**MN NORTH DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING IS APRIL 10-12!** There are about 100 registered to come, and a GREAT crew of volunteers that will be on campus that weekend! Thank you, Redeemer members, for supporting and encouraging this faith building event!

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH!** The congregation is invited to have lunch of nachos with the youth and leaders from the gathering on Sunday, April 12 at 11:30.

**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION** is now open. Go to the Lutheran Island Camp website to register. Some camps, such as the horse camps, fill up relatively quickly, so don't wait too long to register.

**BECOME A JUNIOR COUNSELOR/JUNIOR WRANGLER** at Lutheran Island Camp serve under the Cabin Counselors and Wranglers, assisting them in their daily activities with the campers. We are looking for energetic and Jesus-loving teenagers, ages 15-18 (must be entering 10th Grade), to participate in this incredible experience. The deadline to apply is April 4, 2026.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR 18 YEAR OLDS/COLLEGE AGED STUDENTS AT CAMP:** Camp is looking for counselors, program assistants, kitchen assistants, maintenance assistants, and wranglers. Check on the camp website under "summer employment" for more information on these opportunities.

**If you do not receive calls or texts from Redeemer on events that are coming up or that have occurred, it means we didn't receive an information card from you. Cards are available in the narthex or church office, just fill out and return to the church office. This will ensure you receive updates and important information as events occur.**

**LWML NEWS**

Happy Spring Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

This month our group is collecting items to donate to Willmar Arrives ministry to help with basic needs our neighbors have. Listed below are the items they need most. If you would like to join us, items can be brought to our April meeting or to the church office. We will then deliver the collected items after our meeting on April 14.

Specific Needs are:

- Toothpaste (children & adult)
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Dish Soap
- Cleaning Sponges
- Disinfectant cleaning spray

The Spring Zone rally is on Sunday, April 19 at St. Paul Lutheran in Montevideo. If you are interested in carpooling, please let me know.

Hope to see all of you at our April 14 meeting. We begin at 5:30pm with a potluck and Bible Study from Pastor Renstrom.

Serving in Christ with you,

Brooke Sellmann, chair

**LET'S GO TO ITALY!** Discover the Heart of the Early Church in the Eternal City! During our time in Rome, we will have the special opportunity to worship on Saturday with the pastors we pray for each Sunday, a truly meaningful experience. Brochures may be found in the narthex or church office. Mark your calendar for January 13-21, 2027. Tell your friends!

**ITALY INFORMATION**  
**MEETING**  
Tuesday, April 7th at 7 pm

**QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING**  
April 26th at 9:15 am  
Join us in the Fellowship Hall