



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

February 2023

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22

The observance of Lent begins at Redeemer on February 22 with our Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00pm featuring the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. There will also be Mid Day Quiet Communion at 12:15pm.

The theme for this year's Lenten worship will be Praying Like Jesus. Lent is a time of solemn preparation and repentance as we journey with Jesus to the cross, making our Easter celebration all the more joyous. As we journey together this year, we will learn about the characteristics of how Jesus prayed, inviting us to adopt those same things in our own prayers and draw closer to God. Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday and all the other Wednesdays in Lent.



Choral Scholars Gala is February 11

It's one of the highlights of our year! Join us for a fabulous evening of music and fun as we enjoy this year's Choral

Scholars Gala! The theme this year is "The Roaring Twenties" and will feature music from about 100 years ago. Most of us weren't around then, but we can still enjoy the music. Tickets are \$15, and there are other opportunities to support this program with your donations.

Our Choral Scholars are paid musicians who serve as leaders for each section of the choir, and over the years we have appreciated what they add to our music program. Having Choral Scholars, however is not provided for in our congregation's spending plan, however, so the whole program is supported by the funds raised in this event.

Don't miss it!

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This happens more than I care to admit. Nan and I will just be going through life, and then something will happen, and I'll suddenly share some random and odd bit of information related to what happened. She will look back at me and say, "Why do you keep all that junk in your head?" I usually respond, "That's where good sermons come from."

We are teasing with each other, but there is some truth there. Interesting sermon introductions and unusual connections to the Bible and who we are do sometimes come from that junk I keep in my head.

One of the resources that helps me is Uncle John's Bathroom Reader. These books are just collections of random, interesting articles. And when I read these books, I always learn something interesting and unusual.

At the bottom of each page, they have what they call a "factoid." This is a one sentence fact that is surprising or that you probably didn't know. For example: Glass balls will bounce higher than rubber ones. Or another one: The cat is the only domestic animal that does not appear in the Bible. Lately, they've put out books that are just collections of these factoids, like: What do you call a collection or group of rhinos? A crash.

Well, I'm sure you've heard of that kind of thing before. Many of us have heard of "a murder of crows," for example.

But that also got me to thinking about the other strange things we call collectives of animals, and so I did a little research.



the facts.)

What do you call a collection of apes? A troop or a shrewdness.

Bees in a group can be called a swarm, a drift, an erst,

What do you call a group of alligators? This was interesting: you call them a congregation. (No hidden message there — just



or a grist; hornets are a bike; and birds can be a flock, a flight, a pod or a dissimulation.

Butterflies come in a swarm or a flutter.

Buzzards in a group are called a wake.

Cats may not be mentioned in the Bible, but if there's a group of them, you can call them a clowder, a cluster, a glaring, a pounce, or a destruction; and if they are a group of kittens, it's called a kindle.

This was interesting: more than one cockroach is called an intrusion.

What do you collectively call eagles? A convocation.

What do you call a gathering of flamingoes? A stand.

What do you call a group of flies? Among other things, a business, and hyenas are called a cackle.

What do you call a collection of mice? A mischief.

There's a pandemonium of parrots, and an ostentation of peacocks.



Now, there were lots more, but I want to mention only one additional description of a group.

What do you call a group of people who love God, who trust that God loves them and reaches to them in grace, who live out their faith in generous response to God in their lives, caring for each other and the world God made, sharing one another's burdens, celebrating together our joys, having been called by God into ministry and mission, sharing their gifts and talents on behalf of God's people and God's work, who reach into the world in compassion, who seek to learn and know God more and more, who find their lives filled by the Holy Spirit and led into service, who come together as a family in praise and worship of the glorious God? Redeemer Lutheran Church.



Pat Dabels 2/2
 Steven Harmon 2/2
 Janet Boatwright 2/4
 Tyler Richards 2/4
 Martha Shealey 2/5
 Brenda Owens 2/6
 Libby Bryan 2/7
 Dottie Eirten 2/7
 Lynne Flood 2/7
 Jim Bryan 2/8
 Preston Smith 2/11



Zakary Thomas 2/11
 James Derrick 2/14
 Lee Thomas 2/16
 Lily Grace Thomas 2/16
 Amanda Burke 2/17

James Cowan 2/17
 Trish Matthey 2/17
 Merri Lewis 2/18
 Drew Carter 2/20
 Phillip Urso 2/20
 Trent Morgan 2/21
 Diane Hunt 2/23
 Chelsea Miracle 2/23
 Susan Lorick 2/24

Has Your Number or Email Changed?



Several time a year, the church office updates the church directory and puts copies out on a table in the narthex for you to pick up. If you've had changes in your family, or if numbers or addresses, etc. have changed, please let the church office know.

Don't Fall for It

Don't fall for the current scam going around. The SC Synod warns:



Scammers are obtaining Church Directories and sending out e mails, texts, or calls asking for gift cards for the Church. Some are using the name of the Pastors. If you receive such a message, call your Church before sending. Scammers often use gift cards to convert into cash rather than asking directly for money. Verify any request. This has already effected a number of our congregations. Please stay vigilant.

Please know that Pastor Gary nor Pastor Amanda nor any church staff member will ask for gift cards this way.



In Appreciation

Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. This month the council appreciated:

Lane Cross who picks up litter on the church campus,

Pat Blackwell who has done a lot of work to beautify our central courtyard,

Connie Davis and Preston Smith for leading our Share the Warmth coat drive, and to

Brian Metz, Michaela...., and Bill Newmyer for all their support for our youth ministry program.



Share the Warmth Coat Drive Ends for this Year

Our "*Share the Warmth*" Coat Collection ended on January 29th. However, the warmth of God's Love will continue through your kind generosity. This was our 18th year of having a coat ministry. In the recent years, we gave it a name. "*Share the Warmth*". As of today, we have donated 1,477 coats and numerous hats, gloves and scarves to our neighbors. Seeing the need of warm hats, too, our "*Cap Crew*" ministry was created! WOW! Such wonderful examples of how every one of us can make a difference in the life of another person!
Wishing you God's Peace! The Grace Stewardship Committee



Retired, but Still Energized

The Leisure Timers are Redeemers "*retired, but still energized*" adults. We enjoy our time together whether at our monthly luncheon meetings or out and about town for a tour and/or lunch! We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. There are no dues. You aren't required to attend unless you want to do so. You are always welcome to bring friends. Our events are always publicized in the weekly "*Go and Serve*" as well as our monthly "*Crossroads*." You can also be added to our email list to so our upcoming events are at your fingertips. **Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th.** Details will be announced. If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to be added to our email list, please contact me, Connie Davis, (803)317-7631 or email Conniedavis@sc.rr.com. Hope to see you soon!



Memorials Received

November 21st, 2022 through
January 8th 2023

In Memory of:

Martha Vasant

Cornelia Collins
Marie Baughman
Hettie & Lane Cross
Cindy Peek
Bonnie Berley
Linda Wells
Robert & Jane Long

Leslie Farlin

Marie Baughman
Robert & Jane Long
Hugh & Connie Davis
Kathy Harrell
Jean Cook
Cornelia Collins
Cynthia & David Peek
Carol Champion



Robert Cook

Kathy Harrell
Hettie & Lane Cross
Kathy Harrell

Brian Burke

Carol Champion
Marie Baughman
Cornelia Collins
Kathy Harrell
Hettie & Lane Cross

Jeff Dunham

Hettie & Lane Cross
Marie Baughman

Carol Brockman

Marie Baughman
Kathy Harrell



THE CHORAL SCHOLARS ANNUAL GALA



SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Come enjoy an evening of music from the Roaring Twenties!

Enjoy songs by George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, and other greats from the Golden Age. You'll hear great songs like "Ain't Misbehavin', Sweet Georgia Brown, Putin' on the Ritz, Side by Side and many more fun songs to put you in a swingin' mood.

Munch on some of the finest desserts and snacks while enjoying a great show, all while supporting a worthy cause.

Tickets go on sale Sunday, January 15th and continue until February 5th.

Please consider making a donation.

Eighth Note Sponsor= \$10

Quarter Note Sponsor= \$25

Half Note Sponsor= \$50

Whole Note Sponsor= \$100

Conductor's Circle Sponsor=\$250

Grand Staff=\$500+



Ask Miss Edith:

Dear Miss Edith,

My adult children (both in their upper twenties) are sporadically attending one of those non-denominational churches. Of course, I'm glad they are involved in church. I have even attended worship with them on a number of occasions. The worship seemed sincere, but their music seemed more like a concert; and their service seemed so casual and informal. Am I missing something? Everyone there seemed so happy. I felt out of place and had trouble connecting with their style. What can I do?



Wondering in Waco

Dear Wondering,

What to do? Love your children; support them; encourage them. Miss Edith does not care for the term "worship wars" referring to the supposed conflict between the type of service you described and the more formal and traditional style many of us grew up with.

Miss Edith recognizes that each congregation is unique, and as such each congregation seeks to reflect the people who come to worship. Sometimes that means a new and, dare I say, contemporary approach; other times a more traditional approach is the better option.

Yes, I'm aware of the idea that we need growth and outreach. But changing music or style won't be nearly as effective and powerful in accomplishing that goal as building personal relationships. In other words, the key thing is for congregations to focus on building community and fostering relationships.

Miss Edith supports the idea that worship leaders who lean toward the new and novel need to find ways to maintain some connection with the legacy from which they came. And likewise, traditionalist, such as Miss Edith, are incumbent upon to find new ways of expression and fresh avenues to explore.

Please continue to support your children in their quest. In the end, the message is greater than the medium.

Your loving servant,

Miss Edith



Notary Services Available

When Julie Pell and Debbie Suydam worked here at Redeemer, they provided notary services to congregational members who needed a notary. Our new Church Secretary, Betty Pearce, is also a notary and has offered her services to the congregation as well. If you are in need of a notary, just contact her at the church office.



Since Redeemer added the Communication Cards to the Sunday bulletin, there has been a question to ponder at the bottom. First, we asked where you saw God throughout the week. After a while, it changed to prompt responses of where you felt God's love. Now, the next edition of cards invites you to ponder what questions you have about God or faith.



Each month I will do my best to answer one of the questions in my monthly newsletter piece. The person asking will always remain anonymous. I hope you'll take this opportunity to consider any questions that you may have. No question is too simple and we'll try to tackle those complex ones.

The question for this month...

Is it ever necessary to defend our faith, denomination, or beliefs?

This is an intriguing question. The way it is worded, using the words 'ever necessary,' pull my mind toward dire situations. I also wonder what forms of defense are intended. Is it a question of using words to defend our faith? Are there thoughts of using force to defend our beliefs? Would someone use love to defend our denomination? I know, it's not really fair to answer a question with more questions!

One of my favorite pieces of scripture, and one I find extremely instructive, is Micah 6:8. "[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking with God can take many forms. Each one must be explored through the lens of God's eternal, unconditional, radical love.

If our beliefs lead us to care for the hungry, sick, homeless, marginalized, and lonely, then part of our call to do justice includes advocating for them. How far does that advocating go? Does it reach into the realm of defense? Perhaps. We may need to use our words or our great love for others in order to defend them... for righteousness or justice to prevail.

To answer this question it is important to consider the goal and the outcome. Defending our faith or beliefs on a personal level leads us to share who and what we have faith in. It is a form of witnessing to the world. As for defending our denomination, it is important that we know the stance, and reasoning, our denomination takes on a variety of subjects. When our faith runs deep we are sure of ourselves, our relationships, our beliefs, and our place in the world. At the same time while walking with God we're instructed to be humble. An important phrase that I've learned from our very own Jim Boatwright is "I could be wrong." It is always a balance.

In the end this question makes me think of lessons we can learn from the German Lutheran martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. His work, *The Cost of Discipleship*, could be a very good read to explore this question further. If you'd like to borrow a copy let me know.





Council Affirms Current Covid Policies, Celebrates Finishing 2022 in the Black

In January, the Church Council had a lot to talk about as they heard updates from ongoing ministries and needs, and then began to look at new ministries and ideas for the future.

After approving minutes the Council heard reports and celebrated that our congregation was so generous that we finished 2022 with receipts above our expenses. Another celebration came during the Pastor's Point Devotional as Pastor Gary shared a video from the SC Synod highlighting the work of Camps Hugg and Gift, and pointed out the Redeemer members featured and interviewed for the video. Council celebrated this way of our congregation giving through volunteering also.

Pastor Amanda updated the Council about the Children's Ministry Envisioning committee and their plans for another community event in early March. Pastor Gary reported that we are still waiting on one HVAC unit to arrive (but it should be soon). Council also decided not to enter into a maintenance contract for the retention pond at this time, and spring nears, to consider treating the grass so it doesn't grow over the new parking lot.

Council discussed the Covid policies that have been in

place and whether the language should be softened. There were opinions on both sides, but in the end Council opted to leave the language as it is currently. The congregation is reminded that we wear masks out of love and protection for our neighbors.

In new business, Council began to plan for a date to spend some time envisioning ministry for the future of Redeemer. Council will invite a leader to guide us through such a process.

A church member asked Council to sponsor Cupid's Chase, a 5K to help children with disabilities. Council agreed to dedicate Lenten Offerings for this purpose.

Council then reviewed future meeting dates for the rest of the year and ended the meeting with prayer and sharing the peace.



- Celebrated the congregation's generosity as we ended the 2022 in the black
- Children's Ministry event in early March
- HVAC unit should be arriving soon
- No retention pond maintenance for now
- Parking lot edges to be treated later perhaps
- Current Covid policies and language affirmed
- Envisioning retreat planned
- Lenten Offerings go to Cupid's Chase (children with disabilities)

By the Numbers December

	December YTD 2022	December YTD 2021	December YTD 2020
Total income	\$ 576,534	\$581,877	\$ 598,751
Total expenses	\$ 572,200	\$593,374	\$ 541,673
Income less expense	\$ 4,334	\$ (11,497)	\$ 57,078
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 143,571
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 199,423	\$ 89,823	\$ 216,760

Attendance

90

111

88



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

6:00 pm
Feb 22nd





Vote for Your Team

Souper Bowl Collection Begins

Redeemer youth will once again be collecting donations in soup pots for the “**Souper Bowl of Caring.**” Each week (1/29 through 2/12) you can place change in the soup pot of your pick to win the playoffs and Superbowl. All money collected at Redeemer will be used to provide a February meal box for families in need at Seven Oaks Elementary School. This effort to support those



who are hungry was started right here in Columbia back in 1990. The money collected stays in local communities to fight hunger and the amounts are reported to the nationwide organization. Since it’s beginning Souper Bowl of Caring has collected over \$170 million dollars in a grass-roots effort to fight hunger. The Redeemer Family is happy to continue supporting this effort and thus supporting the community around us!

Book Study: The Art of Neighboring

A New Redeemer Book Study continues on Sundays at 2 pm on Zoom. All are welcome to join us. Feel free to invite friends from Redeemer and outside of Redeemer. We are reading The Art of



Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationship Right Outside Your Door by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. Zoom Link: <https://relu.link/BookStudy>

RELU Camera Crew to Meet

The RELU Camera Crew will meet after worship on Sunday, February 26th. If you are interested in what the Camera Crew does and feel like you have, or can learn those skills, you are invited to join us. Contact Pastor Amanda or any one of the Camera Crew for more information.



Feeling God’s Love

How the Redeemer Family has felt God’s love recently... Through the help, caring, and warm wishes of friends. Through God’s presence during grief, funerals, illness, and healing. Through holidays with family, being able to assist other families with food and gifts to celebrate, and the “Share the Warmth” coat drive. Through God’s peace when I pray, spending time in Bible study, and wonderful communities that surround us. Through Leisure Timers’, 525 Players, helping a family make a house payment, and love shown at children’s birthday parties. Through the beauty of a full moon, nature all around us, the pure love from pets, and things that remind us of those we love who have died.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir @ 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Large Back	30 10am - Staff Meeting @ front 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible Stories	31	1 10am - Morning Glory Choir 7pm - Choir Practice	2 10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @	3 6pm - Private Event @ Large Back	4
5 8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11am - Confirmation Lunch @ 11:15am - Worship & Music @ 11:30am - Handbell Choir @ 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Large Back	6 10am - Staff Meeting @ front 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible Stories	7	8 Gala Setup @ Fellowship Center 10am - Morning Glory Choir 7pm - Choir Practice	9 10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @	10 6pm - Private Event @ Large Back	11 7pm - Choral Scholars Gala @
12 8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir @ 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Large Back 4pm - CMETF @ Front Conference	13 9am - Gardendale Garden Club @ 10am - Staff Meeting @ front 2pm - Ruth Circle @ back 4pm - Finance Committee Meeting 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible Stories	14	15 10am - Morning Glory Choir 10:30am - Growing through Grief 7pm - Choir Practice	16 10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @	17 SCLCY 11th and 12th Rehearsal @ TBD 6pm - Private Event @ Large Back	18
19 SCLCY 11th and 12th Rehearsal @ 8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir @ 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Large Back 6:30pm - Church Council @ large	20 10am - Staff Meeting @ front 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible Stories	21 6pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake	22 10am - Morning Glory Choir 12:15pm - Ash Wednesday Quiet 7pm - Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm - Choir Practice	23 10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @	24 6pm - Private Event @ Large Back	25
26 8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - RELU Camera Crew 11:30am - Handbell Choir @ 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Large Back	27 10am - Staff Meeting @ front 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible Stories	28	1 10am - Morning Glory Choir 10:30am - Growing through Grief 7pm - Choir Practice 7pm - Lenten Worship	2 10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @	3 6pm - Private Event @ Large Back	4



Redeemer Youth Calendar

Always subject to change!

- Sundays—Faith Launch
- 3yo-2nd, 3rd-6th
- February—Souper Bowl of Caring
- February 5—Confirmation, 7th-10th
- February 5—0-K Youth Group
- February 5—K-5th Youth Group
- February 17-19—11th-12th SCLCY Retreat
- March 5—Confirmation 7th-10th
- March 17-19—6th-8th SCLCY Retreat
- April 1—Easter Egg Hunt
- June 26-30—Camp HUGG, 8th-12th grades
- July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Youth Gathering
- July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Young Adult Gathering
- Young Adult Adventure, TBD

Don't Stop Believing!

SCLCY 11th/12th Grade Retreat
 February 17-19, 2023
 Coastal Retreat Center, Isle of Palms
 More info and registration:
<http://scsynod.us/lcy1112wr>



"LIVIN' ON A PRAYER!"
 9TH -10TH GRADE RETREAT
 JANUARY 13-15, 2023

"YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME"
 MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT
 MARCH 17-19, 2023

"DON'T STOP BELIEVING"
 11TH-12TH GRADE RETREAT
 FEBRUARY 17-19, 2023

You've Got a Friend in Me!

SCLCY 6th-8th Grade Retreat
 March 17-19, 2023
 Camp Kinard, Batesburg-Leesville
 More info and registration:
<http://www.scsynod.com/youth>

February Youth Group
February 5th

Littles-K, 11:30-12:30
 K-5th grade, 11:30-1:30

Lunch - Stories - Crafts - Games

