



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

March 2023

Wednesday Lenten Worship: Praying Like Jesus

The gospel of Luke tells us that the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ^{Luke 11:1} In that question, it seems clear that the disciples had noticed something about how Jesus prayed. Perhaps they saw a closeness to God evident in his prayers. Perhaps they noticed how genuine Jesus was in prayer. Perhaps they recognized how renewed and fulfilled Jesus was in prayer and they wanted that from their own prayers. In answering them, Jesus taught them the Lord’s prayer.



The yearning for meaningful prayer that the disciples felt is something that we yearn for as well. This year’s Wednesday Lenten worship services center around the theme of ‘Praying Like Jesus.’ As we journey to the cross and the empty tomb this year, we will consider how Jesus prayed and how we can share in praying like him. Lenten worship will be each Wednesday in March at 7:00pm. We will worship using the Vespers service that we are familiar with from the LBW (green book).

The Lenten offerings received this year will go to Cupid’s Chase, a local organization that offers support and aid to families that have children with disabilities. Please give generously.

The Wednesday worship services will also be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube — [Facebook.com/relu.church](https://www.facebook.com/relu.church) or .

Inside-

Children’s Ministry	
Update	4
Leisure Timers	6
Intant Church	
Directory	6
Ask Miss Edith	7
Council Report	8
RELU Youth	9



Celebrate Easter with an Easter Lily

Easter lilies trumpet our joy at the resurrection of Christ. Place an Easter Lily in the sanctuary for our Easter worship and then enjoy it at home. Lilies are \$15.00 per plant and the deadline is March 24. Forms are available in the narthex.



The movie was made about 30 years before any of my confirmation students were born, but still I show it every time as we talk about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The movie was made in 1986, and was entitled *The Mission* starring Jeremy Irons, Robert DeNiro, and a very young Liam Neeson. The story is captivating.

Set in the early 1700's in South America, the story begins with a Roman Catholic priest, Father Gabriel, making contact with a local indigenous tribe and trying to convert them to Christianity.

Meanwhile a mercenary, Mendoza, has been preying on this very tribe, capturing people and killing them or selling them as slaves, returns to the established city, only to find the woman he loves in the arms of another man. It was his brother, and they engaged in a duel, and Mendoza in his rage ends up killing his brother.



When Father Gabriel himself returns, he finds Mendoza refusing all human contact, and even turning away from God. Father Gabriel offers him a penance to try to find forgiveness. "Do you dare try it?" Father Gabriel asks. Mendoza challenges back, "Do you dare to see it fail?"

The next scene shows Father Gabriel and other priests making their way through dense jungle, oppressive heat, and muddy mountains, on their way back to the tribe for more mission work. Following along behind them is Mendoza, but he is dragging a bag full of the relics of his mercenary life: swords, armor, and weapons. As he makes his way, the bag catches on, rocks, roots, and trees, he struggles painfully to drag it behind him up muddy, slippery mountain paths. Eventually, one of the priests cuts it away from him, and Mendoza climbs back down the mountain and ties it back on.

Amazingly, after this incredible struggle, it gets harder. They reach the waterfalls which must be climbed.



Hundreds of feet tall, and not only does Mendoza have to get himself up, but he must do so dragging the bag representing his past. On and on the ordeal goes.

Eventually, the priests make it to the waiting tribe, and as they are greeting each other, a muddy, filthy, exhausted Mendoza arrives, still dragging his bag. He falls to his

knees.

The tribespeople recognize their enemy, and one picks up a knife and runs to Mendoza, lifts his head and holds the knife at his throat. The chief of the tribe speaks to Father Gabriel who answers, and then the chief utters his instructions. The man with the knife cuts away the bag and rolls it off the cliff and into the river. Mendoza breaks down laughing and crying all at once. The forgiveness he has received from his enemies allows him to understand and receive the forgiveness of God. His past wrong has been cut away and it is gone forever.

It's a powerful scene and opens the door for the class and me to talk about the weight of our sins that we carry, the baggage of our past, and how Christ's death



cuts that away and frees us to be new people.

As we make our Lenten journey, we

journey with Jesus to the cross. There, the bags of our guilt and sin, the baggage we carry of misspent pasts and wrongful ways is cut away, not by our enemy, but in the wondrous love of God.

Lent is a time when we think about all these things. "Create in us clean hearts, O God," we plead, the words of the Psalmist becoming our heart's cry. We fall, burdened, at the foot of the cross.

We rise to new life.



Joseph May 3/1
 Lester Bedenbaugh 3/3
 Michelle Busch 3/3
 Kaitlin Harring 3/4
 Jody Byrd 3/6
 Buddy Champion 3/6
 Travis Cowan 3/6
 Layne Smith 3/6
 Paul Fazio 3/7
 Graham Mitchell 3/9
 Connie Davis 3/10
 Stephanie Cowan 3/11
 Sarah Drake 3/11



Allison Burgess 3/12
 Suzanne Harmon 3/12
 Jason Roddey 3/13
 Lynda Leonardi 3/14
 McKenzie Bachman 3/17
 Matthew Epting 3/18
 Ryan Willingham 3/18
 Jill Griffin 3/19
 Cameron Himel 3/19

Brenda Boyd 3/21
 William Murphy 3/22
 Carroll Lorick 3/23
 Mitch Plemmons 3/26
 Martha Summer 3/26
 Gregory Harmon 3/27
 Dwight Bachman 3/29
 Kirby Byrd 3/29
 Ernest Nix 3/29
 Robert Schaller 3/29
 Keagan Carlsen 3/3
 Hugh Davis 3/30
 Brandi Martin 3/30
 Adelaide Frey 3/31

Sunday Online Book Study Continues

The Redeemer Book Study continues Sundays at 2 pm on Zoom. We're still reading The Art of Neighboring:



Building Genuine Relationship Right Outside Your Door by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. It has been a wonderful dive into what it means to be a good neighbor to those closest to us. Anyone is welcome to jump in at any

point. Contact Pastor Amanda for more information.

Zoom Link: <https://relu.link/BookStudy>

Our tentative schedule...

March 5 – Chapter 7

March 12 – Chapter 8

March 19 – Chapter 9

March 26 – Chapter 10

We will start a new book study after Easter.



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:

The Choral Scholar Team which worked behind the scenes to set up, decorate, prepare food, and more for our wonderful Choral Scholars Gala,

Michelle Knight who coordinates, shops for, and delivers our food boxes for the needy through Seven Oaks Elementary,

Greg Cross for all his dedication and hard work as he retires as our Property Committee chair, and to

Carol Valovcin, who supports our Altar Guild with numerous behind the scenes tasks and oversight.



Children's Ministry Envisioning Task Force Update

When it became clear that the needs of our neighborhood were changing and that the preschool needed to take a year off, the Children's Ministry Envisioning Task Force was formed. Over the past six months, this group has celebrated the fantastic ministry that Redeemer Lutheran Preschool did for so many years.

We looked at the needs of the community around us along with exploring what other preschools were doing. In addition, we took an inventory of the resources, both tangible and in spirit, that Redeemer has to offer.

At this point we are ready to explore what it is that the Holy Spirit is stirring up in the Redeemer Family. We're asking ourselves, what is God guiding us to do and be in the community with which we are planted? We're approaching this in two ways. The first, we'll start the process of cleaning out the preschool rooms one at a time. Don't worry, we're saving the appropriate items for use with children's ministry here. Second, we're invited

Melanie Westhart, Seven Oaks Elementary School Social Worker, to come and speak to our group about the needs that she sees in the community, in particular, the needs that are not being addressed.

We look forward to sharing what comes out of these opportunities. Please continue to hold Redeemer's children's ministry and the families of the Saint Andrew's area in your prayers.



Outgrowth: S.A.V.E. – Saint Andrews Visioning Event

When the Children's Ministry Envisioning Task Force was formed to look into children's ministry and our community, there was a significant amount of dreaming and excitement that bubbled up. This has taken shape as S.A.V.E... Saint Andrews Visioning Event. This gathering is specifically designed to bring together people that have a vested interest in the lives of children in the Saint Andrews Area.



Back in October of 2022 folks from other congregations and social workers from the local schools were invited for the first event. We dreamt about what it would look like for all the children (birth through eighteen) to have all of their needs met. Out of the lively conversation four areas emerged as common denominators in the small group conversation: food security, safety, health care, and education.

Now it is time for S.A.V.E. #2! We have widened the invitation to include others in the area that can speak into these four areas of focus. In early March we'll gather with a wider group to continue those conversations and start looking at action items.

Please keep this group in your prayers as we look at meeting the needs of our community's young people. If this sounds like something that you are passionate about and would like more information talk with Pastor Amanda.



We deeply appreciate all of you for your generous support of Redeemer's Choral Scholars Program. Our choral scholars are an integral part of the music program at Redeemer and YOU make that happen.

Grand Staff Sponsor

Charlie and Jean Cook
Jim Epting
Bob and Jane Long
Jim and Donna Nunamaker
Mike and Lurah Shealy
Fred and Carolyn Splittgerber

Conductor's Circle

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Will Shrigley

And a big, big thank you to the Choral Scholars' Gala Committee. They devoted hours of work in planning and putting together this year's awesome Gala. Thank you all so much!

Janet Boatwright
Jean Cook

Jane Long
Martha Summer

Judy Urso



Leisure Timers Plan Exciting Spring

The Leisure Timers of Redeemer have been making plans for this year. We are lining up places to go, great food to eat, and guest speakers to greet! Keep an eye out for details about our monthly events. Invite a friend! Our monthly meetings are always on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We eat at 12:00 and then enjoy a program. Our trips are always publicized, too. If you have any questions, please email Conniedavis@sc.rr.com, text or call (803)317-7631.

Fund it or Fix it

As our building is being used more and more we find that issues and small repairs (or a little larger) are noticed around our building. So many in the Redeemer Family ask, "How can we help?" We've come up with an opportunity! A "Fund it or Fix it" list is being compiled. There are multiple opportunities to participate in this...



If you see something around the church building let us know. Contact Pastor Amanda with the issue, location, and contact person for more information about it.

If you are the handy type that could address an item on the list contact the individual and take care of the issue.

If you are interested in funding the repair or the fix contact the individual and work out a solution.

Look out for the Fund it or Fix it list to make its debut! See if there is something listed that you can fix or fund.

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 12



Instant Church Directory

The Redeemer Family created their last pictorial directory in 2020. Interestingly, it was right as the pandemic hit and everything was grinding to a halt. The company we used ended up closing down. In fact, ours was the very last directory that they ever made.

As with so many other things, church directories have changed shape. While it is something new to learn, it is also a tool that will be very useful and facilitate better communication. You'll hear more about it in the coming weeks. There will be an invite sent from Pastor Amanda through Instant Church Directory. It is an app that can go on your phone or tablet. However, you can also access it from a website. You'll be invited to update your information so the church office has accurate records. If this makes you worry about how it all works, don't fret. Like all of the other pieces of technology we've begun to use, plenty of people will gladly help you access and learn to use it.



Look for more information to come and feel free to ask questions!



Where has the Redeemer Family Felt God's Love?

The Redeemer Family has recently felt God's love through family, spending time together for birthdays, watching our son take his first steps, and spending time with grandchildren. We've felt God's love through the love of friends, supporting them and lifting them in prayer, and receiving help with an oil change. God's love was felt in the celebration of life and new life at a funeral and reception, through the music and voices of the Choral Scholars, and in filling the Blessing Box.

Ask Miss Edith:

Dear Miss Edith,

Recently I found myself in a very awkward position, and I'd like your thoughts. I definitely feel like I could have handled the situation better.

I entered our sanctuary a few minutes before the service was to begin and was thrilled that our organist had chosen a Bach piece for the prelude. I am quite fond of Bach's music and find it so inspiring. She was doing a masterful job and had just started the second section when a friend of mine sat down beside me. I hadn't seen this friend in several months. She first whispered, "good morning". But then she proceeded to fill me in on the events of her life for the past several months we'd been apart. I desperately wanted to hear her news, and I even had things I wanted to talk to her about. But Bach was being played. I tried politely to send non-verbal cues that I didn't want to talk, but, bless her, my friend didn't pick up on the cues, so I sat there trying to hear my beloved Bach and listen to my cherished friend. I wound up feeling cheated of both a meaningful conversation and a delightful Bach prelude. What could I have done?

Bach-less in Boston

Dear Bach-less,

First, consider yours a blessing of abundance! To be a part of a congregation that supports great music is indeed a wonderful gift. To be part of a congregation where people love being together and thrill in sharing their lives with others is beyond rewarding. It is a small piece of heaven on earth. You, dear reader, are blessed to be part of a congregation with both great music and wonderful fellowship—truly a blessing of abundance.

But Miss Edith does understand your dilemma. Miss Edith is aware that often there is friendly chattering in the congregation while she is playing the prelude—prelude music that she's spent hours carefully preparing. Miss Edith is not offended and does not take such muted conversations as an insult to her skill or time. However, *muted conversation* is not a term Miss Edith uses unintentionally nor lightly. In Miss Edith's humble opinion conversation once the prelude has begun should be quiet and brief. Further, Miss Edith is of the opinion that the service of worship starts with the first note of the prelude. If someone is engaging you in conversation perhaps you could look at them briefly, smile warmly, then deliberately look at the organist. If the friend wishes to continue the conversation, perhaps a warm, friendly, but firm "let's talk after worship", might enlighten the speaker to your situation.

However, if someone is being loud and boisterous, Miss Edith is not above issuing a firm, but loving glare of disapproval.

In all cases, however, Miss Edith understands that the congregation is about the Spirit of God being poured out, love being expressed, acceptance being proclaimed, and Christ mercy shared for all. This is far greater than anything Bach ever wrote. Miss Edith feels confident that that is something with which the great J.S. Bach, himself, would agree.





Council Approves Instant Church Directory App

When our last Pictorial Directory was completed in 2020, it was in the middle of the pandemic, and in fact, we were the last congregation to have a directory printed as the company shut down operations for church directories. In its February meeting, the Church Council approved a new way to create a directory for our congregation. Using instant Church Directory, individuals will be able to upload a picture, update their information like addresses and phone numbers, and then be able to access a directory for our church on their phone or computer. There are a lot more positive features, and there will also be assistance offered to help you get started. Watch for more information.

In Unfinished Business, Pastor Gary informed the Council that the HVAC unit for use in the Preschool wing has finally arrived and we should soon be contacted by the installer to get this completed. It's taken about six months for this to work through the supply chain issues.

Council also approved Mike Parker securing an updated bid for treating the grass at the edge of our parking lot to prevent it growing over the asphalt.

The Council is also beginning to look into the future and thinking about where we want to be and what our ministry might look like in 5+ years. Rev. James Hendrick from the SC Synod will meet in a special session on February 24 to envision possibilities for our future together.

As the Council moved to new business, the first item was to begin looking for voting members for the SC Synod Assembly in June. Two were quickly found and one other is checking their availability.

In addition to the Instant Church Directory, the Council is exploring updating our Church Management Software to make use of new and more streamlined processes.

Finally, the Council has heard concerns about the need for updating and refreshing the landscaping in the front of the church. Jane Long, who is a Master Gardener, has offered to help us draw up some plans for beautifying this area.

The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Amanda and the members of the Council shared the Peace.



- Instant Church Directory approved
- HVAC Unit to be installed soon
- New bid sought to treat grass at parking lot edges
- Council envisioning retreat planned
- Voting members for SC Synod Assembly sought
- Church Management software under study
- Landscaping in the front of the church to be refreshed.

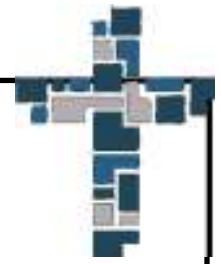
By the Numbers

January

	January YTD 2023	January YTD 2022	January YTD 2021
Total income	\$ 33,698	\$ 25,773	\$ 36,283
Total expenses	<u>\$ 53,541</u>	<u>\$ 46,680</u>	<u>\$ 43,387</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (19,843)</u>	<u>\$ (20,907)</u>	<u>\$ (7,104)</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 143,571
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 165,375	\$ 179,173	\$ 203,911
Attendance	onsite 82 online 99	onsite 67 online 208	online 437

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - New Member</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - RELLU Camera</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>		<p>7:30am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Morning Glory</p> <p>10:30am - Growing</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm - Lenten Worship</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	
<p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Confirmation</p> <p>11:15am - Worship &</p>			<p>7:30am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Morning Glory</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm - Lenten Worship</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	
<p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>11am - Ruth Circle @ back</p> <p>4pm - Finance Committee</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>	<p>9am - Gardendale Garden</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>2pm - Ruth Circle @ back</p>		<p>7:30am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Morning Glory</p> <p>10:30am - Growing</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm - Lenten Worship</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>12pm - Leisure Timers @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	<p>SCLCY MS Retreat @ TBD</p>
<p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>		<p>7:30am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Morning Glory</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm - Lenten Worship</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	
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RELU YOUTH



Redeemer Youth Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sundays—Faith Launch

3yo-2nd, 3rd-6th

March 1—6th-12th Grade Game Night

March 5—Confirmation, 7th-10th

March 5—0-K Youth Group

March 5—K-5th Youth Group

March 5—Confirmation 7th-10th

March 9—6th-8th Grade Small Group

March 16—8th-12th Grade Small Group

March 17-19—6th-8th SCLCY Retreat

April 1—Easter Egg Hunt

April 5—6th-12th Grade Game Night

April 12—6th-8th Grade Small Group

April 16—7th grade through

young adult gathering prep

April 19—8th-12th Grade Small Group

May 4—6th-12th Grade Game Night

May 7—0-K Youth Group

May 7—K-5th Youth Group

May 11—6th-8th Small Group

May 18—8th-12th Small Group

June 16-18—SCLCY Convention (6th-12th)

June 26-30—Camp HUGG, 8th-12th grades

July 7-16—HS/MS Service Learning Trips

July 31-Aug 4—Music Camp!!!

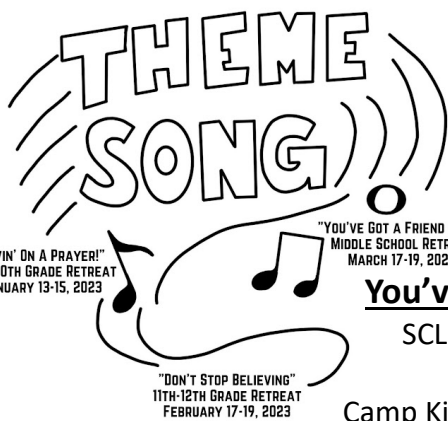
July 13-16, 2024—ELCA Multicultural Youth

Leadership Event (current 7th-11th grades)

July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Youth Gathering

July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Young Adult Gathering

Young Adult Adventure, TBD



"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>