

Redeemer Tidings

A Place of Grace for All

Redeemer is a faith community, living in the grace and love of God, worshipping in the Lutheran-Christian tradition.

This is God's house; there are no strangers here. We welcome all people to journey with us as we seek to live our lives rooted in God's love, caring for one another and the world God made, striving for justice and peace.

Whatever your faith background, we trust you will find here a community of welcome and warmth. Welcome!

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A Note from the Pastor

“Almost-spring” greetings in the name of Jesus!

We are ever-so-slowly re-emerging from our winter hibernation, anticipating signs of spring. It is good to know that spring is coming, even though we might not see much sign of it. That’s a pretty good metaphor for the life of faith. We gather seeking “good news”, a word of grace, but what we find all around us is anything but. We struggle to see signs of new life.

The springtime of our natural world will come; this is certain! But the springtime of our hearts doesn’t feel so certain. Fair weather can seem impossibly far away. It is a bitter wind that blows out there!

As much as we might want to keep this bitterness “out there” and not get mixed up in all of the discord and the rancor, we remember that the life of faith is not an escape. Through our baptism into Christ, the kingdom of God has come to us, right in the mess in which we find ourselves. We gather not to escape from the world but to enter into it more deeply, bearing the mercy and love of God in all we do.

Now more than ever our world needs communities like ours! We need communities that are sources of healing and wholeness. We need communities grounded in truth, that recognize human brokenness and sin, and who see it all as an “us-problem” rather than merely a “them-problem.” We need communities that honor and recognize the kinship of all, and communities that seek God’s mercy each day. Our world needs communities like ours, welcoming and joyful and empowered by the Spirit to love like Jesus.

These are difficult times, and the forces of chaos are threatening to shake us from this center. But God’s people are no strangers to hard times. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; the psalmist says (Psalm 46), but the Lord utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (Psalm 46:6-7)

As we prepare in Lent to once again journey to the Cross, and as we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries of our redemption, we welcome all who are weary to come gather on the shores of refuge, whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Grace and peace to you!

Pr. Tom

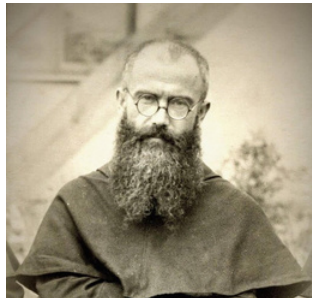


Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Service of Holy Communion
w/ Distribution of Ashes

4:30 PM and 7:00 PM



Tournament of Saints 2025

The Tournament of Saints returns for 2025! Straight from our own Evangelical Lutheran Worship calendar (“Festivals and Commemorations,” pg. 14 and following), we’ll celebrate and learn more about some lesser-known saints. A sampling of great women and men of faith from across Christian history.

Wednesdays in Lent beginning March 12. (Evening Prayer at 7 PM, Tournament of Saints program at 7:30 PM.). Please join us as we celebrate our forebears in faith and consider what it means to be a saint of God in our time.

Wednesdays in Lent, beginning March 12

Evening prayer 7 PM

Tournament of Saints 7:30 PM (in person and on Zoom.)

Featured saints: Ignatius of Antioch, Florence Nightingale, William Tyndale, Philip Melanchthon, Catherine of Siena, John of the Cross, Maximilian Kolbe, Jan Hus, Anselm Bishop of Canterbury, Perpetua and Felicity, and Lucy.



Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday **April 13th**

Passion reading + Holy Communion
8:30 & 10:30 AM



Maundy Thursday, April 17th

Service of Holy Communion 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 18th

"Walk With Jesus" 10:00AM

A Stations of the Cross for All Ages

Noon Prayer 12:00 PM

Readings and Prayers

Good Friday Tenebrae 7:00 PM

Readings, prayers and choral offerings.



Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Place of Grace for All

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STEWARDSHIP

A Sharing in the Good News

"I thank my God every time I remember you...because of your sharing in the gospel for the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

It is common to speak of "going to church." Many think of church as a place you go to, where "religious" things happen, and where you might get a dose of spirituality, or a good feeling or encouragement to get you through the week. If you have children, church is a place you might get something for them, too: a bit of moral grounding, perhaps, or basic religious instruction.

"Going to church" might be where you start, but it doesn't quite do justice to the kind of community that the scripture points us to. Church isn't a place you "go to" so much as it is a community you live in.

The word church comes from the Greek word ecclesia, meaning, the gathered ones. It is a community of Christ, a people gathered together to "live into" and share a new kind of life in the risen Christ.

"Going to church" is a place to start, but being church together is the goal. So here's your invitation:

Redeemer is seeking to widen the circle of participation in the various ways we live this life of faith. Can you take a moment and fill out the brief "Gifts Survey?" I Look for the link in Redeemer's Wednesday Weekly email. This is one way we can help connect your gifts and interests with our shared commitment to be the body of Christ in this place. Filling out this survey does not obligate you to anything, but we hope it may provide an opening for you to share your gifts in this community of Christ's love.



GET INVOLVED!

Fill out a GIFTS
SURVEY -
find the link in the
Wednesday Weekly
email!

Small Groups

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl is designed to console the grieving, comfort the ill, and bring hope to those in despair. It is a “hug” from Jesus. Shawls are homemade and come with a prayer card attached. Anyone can receive a shawl and there is no cost. Contact Paula Irving at 847-409-5056 or Donna Bellows at 973-584-6300 to obtain a shawl or to join this wonderful ministry.

Esther Circle

Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 12:00 PM in the fellowship hall for Bible study, usually sourced from “Gather” magazine. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at noon. For questions contact Ann at amauro51@gmail.com or Dolores at dwenger2@optonline.net.

Wednesday Word

“Tournament of Saints 2025” Lenten program - Please see the description above for information about this exciting study, Wednesdays in Lent beginning March 12, 7:30 PM.

Connections: Then & Now

Join us each Thursday at noon for a bagged lunch and fellowship, followed by study from 12:30-1:30 PM. Open to all! Email sue.corneilson@gmail.com with any questions. We are currently studying Paul’s letter to the Romans which many say is Paul at his very best! What will we find that speaks to us in our own contentious world, which has so much in common with the problems in first century Rome?

Re: Ladies Bible Study

This is a casual, fun group of ladies who gather on most Fridays until May. Come and go as you are able! RE: Fall study meets next on Friday, March 14 from 9:15-10:45 AM. Join us in person or on Zoom. We will pick up where we left off in our study entitled “Meeting the Spirit,” by Douglas Connelly. All are welcome! Bring a friend! Contact Paula Chaney at pjwchaney@gmail.com for more info.

Book Group

Book Group gathers every six weeks or so for a thought-provoking discussion on our latest read. Our current selection is “After Annie” by Anna Quindlen. We’ll meet for discussion on Monday, April 7 at 7:00 PM at Evelyn Hammaren’s home. Email kathy.fiscella@gmail.com or janicekildea@yahoo.com with any questions. All are welcome!

Youth & Family Ministry



First Holy Communion

The fifth grade class will be receiving their First Communion on Sunday, May 11th during the 10:30 AM service. Pastor Tom and Vicar Allison will be meeting with the class on Sunday mornings, March 23rd, 30th and April 6th. The students will bake bread with Mrs. Mauro in the Redeemer Kitchen on Sunday, April 13th! The bread will be used on First Communion Sunday.

Easter Baskets for Our Neighbors

We will be providing meals and baskets for Easter for ten families in our community through Roxbury Social Services. This year we will be providing \$25 Shop Rite gift cards, \$25 Walmart gift card or take a bucket and fill it for \$25 each bucket for a child. An "Easter Basket" poster will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall starting March 23rd. Please take an egg, sign it out and bring back the item by Sunday, April 13th by the 10:30 am service to the designated area in the Fellowship Hall. Buckets and stuffing will be available for you to take. Unable to make it to church but would like to participate. You can send an email to Tammy Snoke stating what you would like to purchase and mail us a check or pay with Venmo and tell me what it's for. Questions, please reach out to Tammy Snoke at rlc.youthandfamily@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for all your donations.



Hop on over to our Easter Eggstravaganza!!

Join us for an egg-citing time! 🐰 Saturday, April 12th from 9 am - 11 am in the Life Center for anyone up to 5th grade. Activities included: Games, Activities, Crafts and Photos with the Easter Bunny. Sign up at rlc.youthandfamily@gmail.com with your last name and number of kids attending

THANK YOU

to all who donated items or a monetary gift for the Souper Bowl of Caring. What a wonderful event it was helping our neighbors and our community. We collected over 337 items, and we donated \$625 to Faith Kitchen in Dover. Thank you to Amy Batsch and her group of youth who collected, sorted, counted, bagged and delivered the items to Roxbury Social Services. Roxbury Social Services was incredibly grateful as they were low on a few items.

Youth & Family Calendar

Sunday, March 2: Sunday School 10:30 am

Sunday, March 9: Sunday School 10:30 am

Tuesday, March 11: Confirmation (Grades 7-8) 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 16: Sunday School 10:30 am; Sandwich Making for 6th – 8th graders

Sunday, March 23: First Communion Class – 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am

Tuesday, March 25: Confirmation (Grades 7-8) 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 30: First Communion Class – 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am

Sunday April 6: First Communion Class – 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am

Tuesday, April 8: Confirmation (Grades 7-8) 7:30 pm

Friday, April 11 – Saturday, April 12: Alpha League Lock In

Saturday, April 12: Eggstravaganza – 9 am – 11am Life Center

Sunday, April 13: First Communion Bread Making – 10:30 am in the main kitchen;
Sunday School 10:30 am

Sunday, April 20: Sunday School 10:30 am

Tuesday, April 22: Confirmation (Grades 7-8) 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 27: Sunday School 10:30 am

Sandwich making for 3rd – 5th – during the 10:30am service

Tuesday, April 29: Confirmation (Grades 7-8) 7:30 pm

Sunday, May 4: Sunday School 10:30 am

Sunday, May 11: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL; First Communion – 10:30 am

Tuesday, May 18: Confirmation (Grades 7-8) 7:30 pm

Sunday, May 18: Last class for Sunday School – 10:30 am



Youth Winter Ski Retreat | February 7-9

You may be surprised to learn that chaperoning a ski trip for 16 teenagers is actually FUN. But these kids are great. They really like each other, they're kind and they make me LAUGH. And they are brave! They may not always report back when they are supposed to. And some have a hard time not talking during devotions. But they are good kids, I tell ya.

Big thanks to Carol Kitchin. Even though it has been years and years since her kids were in our youth group, she is still willing to chaperone these trips and lead us in fun games and devotions. I'm hoping that she'll keep doing it for so long that she'll be there when her grandkids are old enough to join us.

More props to PT for chaperoning and organizing the trip. And to our other chaperones, Vicar Allison, Sonja Baker and Rich Perry (who stepped in at the last minute due to complications caused by the expected snow and ice). Thank you to Heather Johnson for holding down the fort at the lodge. To Tammy Snoke for keeping track of all the paperwork and payments. And to YOU, our congregation, for supporting our fundraisers. I tell ya, it takes a village.

Special mention to 8th graders Josh and Emily Perry. This was their 2nd time skiing, and, thanks to the expert guidance of our in-house ski-instructor extraordinaire Sonja Baker, they graduated to the top of the mountain!!!! Multiple times!

Many happy memories were made on this trip. Lots of adventure, junk food, friends, and laughter. The ski retreat is always a highly anticipated event, and this trip delivered.

REDEEMER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We enjoy this special time at RCS as the winter days are becoming longer and we have the promise of Spring with new life. The warmer weather means we can go outside more and more to play in our wonderful backyard and we can observe the flower bulbs starting to sprout in our front entrance as well as the budding trees all around us. The days are fun filled at RCS as we enjoy God's world all around us. We enjoy watching our children grow in areas of academics, physical growth, and in growth with Jesus spiritually.

Director's Note

This month we are happy to have class trips for the Threes, Fours and STARS. The Threes will go to Weis Markets in Flanders for a tour. We are happy that we are once again able to have these tours as they were stopped during the COVID years but this year are brought back! The Fours and STARS will be going to the Morris Museum in Morristown to experience the Spark! Lab and the Digging Dinosaurs program. The Turtle Back Zoo trip for all is scheduled for May 16th, with a rain date as May 23rd.



We enjoyed our visits from Kaitlyn who is from Randolph Pediatric Dental Associates and from Master Lim and his staff along with former RCS student Antonio Bilbao – Black Belt Instructor at Master Lim's Taekwondo in February. We love these visits, and they are a truly enriching experience for our RCS students. We would also like to thank our parents for sending in books for our Read Across America book exchange last month and to our "Cliffords" (their children never knew who Clifford was!)



We have our Easter egg hunts the end of March this year and we reinforce the meaning of a "Christian", someone who loves God and asks God to live in his or her heart forever. If we plant these seeds in our children's hearts at such a young age, they will grow knowing that God is a constant part in our changing and often troublesome world. We are so fortunate to be able to tell our children the true meaning of Easter of Jesus' love for us and that He died, rose again, and is alive forever. We thank our parents for helping us celebrate Easter by sending in treats and plastic eggs for our Egg Hunts and to our room parents for assembling the treat bags and hiding the eggs. The Easter bunny visits us as well!

Our Parent Teacher conferences are the last week in April. It's always good to hear about the progress of our growing children!



Thank you all for your continued support, prayers, and for your recommendations of our school to others. We truly appreciate it all! We feel that God is with us each day and for that we rejoice! God Bless you all! Cindy Stevens & the RCS Staff

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