# **The Redeemer Review**

"Redeemer Lutheran brought to the generations."

## PASTOR'S PENNINGS. . .

A great Lutheran former pastor and now Christian writer, Chad Bird, once wrote in his book, <u>Limping</u> <u>with God</u>, "As it was with the prodigal (son), so it was with Jacob. And so it is with every one of us who stumble and fumble our way down the discipleship road. Every moment of every day, we live and follow Jesus exclusively by mercy. 'He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities' (Psalm 103:13). If He did, we'd all be dead. 'For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the West, so far does He remove our transgressions from us'. (Psalm 103:11-12)."

These are profound words. "Every day we live and follow Jesus exclusively by his mercy." I think most of us can confess this truth knowing who we are deep down inside. But, Jacob? Why would Chad Bird compare us to the great patriarch Jacob? After all Jacob was God's man through whom the promises of God were to be fulfilled. Jacob was God's chosen even while being the second-born to his older brother Esau. Even when he tried to steal birthright and blessing from his brother, God still favored him. God was with him and made him prosper. So blessed was he, that Jacob would even be able to wrestle with God and prevail.

Yet, Jacob was probably more like each of us than not. He was a man who grew up in a dysfunctional family where mom and dad were always favoring one son over the other. Imagine the dysfunction of his own home as an adult, living with twelve sons and a daughter coming from four different wives. Talk about a "mixed marriage!" No, Bird was right. Jacob, like the prodigal son, and like every one of us, "stumble and fumble our way down life's discipleship road," solely because of God's steadfast love for us. It is "by grace alone that we have been saved, through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph 2:8-9).

God knows your failings. God knows your sin. God knows your dysfunctional upbringing and your dysfunctional family. And it is precisely you He loves. He loves you so much that He was willing to send His Son and die for you. This Son, Jesus willingly took your sins and your dysfunction to the cross all so that He might trade His righteousness for your wickedness. He would endure it all just so that you, yes you, could forever be loved by Him and be with Him forever.

Like Jacob, being loved and blessed by God, we too have the opportunity to stumble and fumble our way down the discipleship road, in the freedom of knowing that God is with us. Like with Jacob, despite us and our issues, God is guiding. He is forgiving. He is blessing. He is opening up opportunities for each of us, His very own beloved possession, to **proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**." So, on those days when you see yourself stumbling and fumbling down life's way, know that you are not alone. We're all in the same grace boat together with Jacob, David, Peter, and the Prodigal. God will not disown any of us, but because of His steadfast love and mercy, He will **"bring us through to the day of completion**." (Philippians 1:6)

May God continue to show you that He is blessing you and holding you close, Pastor Berteau

#### The Cheerful Giver: More Than a Negative



### **Food Bank News**

submitted by Lisa Ruth Kane

This month some of us are preparing and looking forward to the unofficial start to summer. We are looking forward to the lazy

days of summer and some are awaiting their planned vacation(s). But before you go about your plans please take a moment and consider those who seek out our Food Pantry--please keep them in your prayers. Also, if you have the means please consider making one of the nonperishable suggestions. The blessings the Food Pantry receives has kept our shelves mostly full, though on occasion, an item or two runs low. If you have the means to donate a non-perishable item the following items are needed: jar pasta sauce, juice, instant mashed potatoes. PLEASE <u>NO SOUP</u>, canned PEAS, or PASTA at this time.

Know someone who could benefit from a food basket, have them call the church at (732) 657-2828. We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Individuals can schedule an appointment to come in to receive a basket (no walk-ins). Should no one answer, leave a message, I will return the call. Thank you.



Yes, it's that time of the year already. We will have our Oktoberfest Kick-Off meeting on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. As we did last year, our main adjective is to finalize the committee chairpersons.

If you didn't help last year, but would like to help with planning this year's event, please email me, text me, or see me at Church.

If you cannot physically be there and want to join us via ZOOM let me know.

Keith Brown kemainc@msn.com 848-448-0181 Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by. We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean*? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers, and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time, and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

-Greg O'Connor, Stewardship

### Treasury Note – March 2024

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Goralski, TreasurerMonthly Income Total\$26,,675.65Monthly Expense Total\$20,658.65Difference\$6,017.00YTD Income Total\$75,337.91YTD Expense Total\$69,977.01YTD Difference\$5,360.90



## NURSERY NEWS

submitted by Danielle Wagner

Spring weather seems to be playing hide-and-seek with us these days. And, usually, for April showers to bring May flowers, it actually has to

rain in April. Our students track the weather, and it has rained way less than we've seen the sun. We can't wait for more consistent warmer weather.

We would like to thank all who participated in our Candy Bar fundraiser over the last few months. We have made \$1,742.36 and have only 34 bars left. We appreciate your continued support! Save the date for our Red Robin dining fundraiser on May  $30^{th}$ . When you eat in or take out and mention our fundraiser, Red Robin will donate 20% of food sales back to our school. We will also have a Dairy Queen fundraiser coming soon.

We are looking forward to honoring our mothers for Mother's Day at our Tea Party on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be ready to show our smiles for Picture Day on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The end of the school year is approaching quickly, and we are making plans to celebrate at our Graduation & Closing Program on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our staff would like to welcome those new students who have already registered for our Summer Camp and the 2024-2025 school year. We are looking forward to meeting with them and sharing lots of new experiences. God's blessings to all of them. Registrations for both Programs are still being accepted. We are struggling with registrations so please spread the word! If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 732-657-0333 or make an appointment to visit us.

Our 30<sup>th</sup> School Year starts in September, and we are looking for ways to honor our past and look forward to the future and what God is preparing us to do. We will also be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Head Teacher, Melinda Horvath. If you are interested in joining our Christian Education & Nursery School teams, please reach out to any of our Board members or Danielle Wagner.

God's Blessing to all! Danielle Wagner



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank Y O U to all who donated a generous amount of Easter candy and eggs!

Our kiddos continue to learn about:

- -our Risen Lord.
- -thanking God for our daily blessings.
- -remembering to pray for others in need.

Last day of Sunday School is June 1st.

Blessings ~ Evelyn & Hope

## Bi-Annual Voters' Meeting

### **DATE:**

Sunday, May 5, 2024

### TIME and DETAILS:

After the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

All members should consider attending for this informative meeting. Please note there will be a "lite" luncheon after the meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Redeemer will also be thanking Linda Ashbey and Barabara Casper for their years of faithful dedication and service to Redeemer--cake and coffee/tea will be served. All are invited.

Informational packets are available in the Narthex.





### DANIEL

Sight and Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA

Friday, October 4, 2024 Departing 8:30 a.m.

\$169.00 per person

Payment due by <u>May 15, 2024</u>. Includes Premium Motor Coach Transportation to and from Lancaster (bus leaves from Redeemer). Lunch (before the show) at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Seats are in the Center Orchestra section.

Sign-up sheet and information on a table in the Narthex. Any questions please text or call Sharon Goralski at 908-814-3935.



# Lutheran Women in Mission League (LWML)

Praise and thanks to God for the 35 people who participated in the Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil. We are very thankful for your prayers and ask that you continue to remember our church's mission to the community and our world.

Our LWML group includes shut-ins in our local mission activities. This month I was tremendously blessed by a shut-in that I called, regarding an up-coming visit. She blessed me with her story of faith in her retirement years. She related how she uses Portals of Prayer as her daily guide. "I'm not afraid of the future, or dying, as I know from God's Word, what my future is," she said. What a blessing her words were to me, and I hope our readers will also be blessed.

We concluded our Spiritual Gifts Bible Study, with an assessment of our personal gifts. At our next meeting, we will discuss using these gifts in our two mission-circles; local and international.

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, is our next meeting, after Sunday Service, in the small conference room. Deacon Dave Pittinger will be speaking regarding opportunities to serve the homeless community and Kay will be presenting an opportunity to serve unreached people. PROJECT NAME: FEED GOD'S SHEEP

<u>PROJECT SCOPE</u>: AS A REDEEMER OUTREACH MINISTRY PROGRAM THE REDEEMER DISCIPLES WERE SCHEDULED TO COOK (2 COOKS FOR 30 TO 48 INDIVIDUAL MEALS) A DESIGNATED MEAL AND A DESSERT (2 BAKERS SOMETIMES 3 BAKERS) FOR EITHER DELIVERY TO THE CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER LOCATED OFF WHITESVILLE ROAD AT RIVERWOOD PARK EVERY WEDNESDAY WHEN DECLARED OPEN OR DELIVER INDIVIDUAL MEAL CONTAINERS TO THE STREET HOMELESS WHEN WARMING CENTER WAS NOT OPEN.

<u>PROJECT SUPPORT</u>: WE HAD A TOTAL OF <u>145 REDEEMER VOLUN-</u> <u>TEER OPPORTUNITIES</u> SUPPORTING THE COOKING AND BAKING DURING THE 22 WEEK PROJECT DURATION. WE HAD 1 AWESOME DISCIPLE VOLUNTEER SIGNED UP 21 TIMES, AND OTHER DISCIPLE VOLUNTEERS SIGN-UP RANGED FROM 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, UP TO 8 TIMES PER VOLUNTEER COOK OR BAKER.

CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER DELIVERIES WERE 100% ON TARGET, REDEEMER DELIVERED WHENEVER CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER WAS DECLARED OPEN. HOWEVER, THAT MEANT REDEEMER DELIVERIES TO STREET HOMELESS DID NOT RECEIVE A REGULAR WEEKLY DELIVERY OF REDEEMER HOME COOKED/BAKED MEALS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL MEALS PREPARED BY REDEEMER VOLUNTEER DISCIPLES DURING THE 22 WEEK PERIOD WAS <u>APPROXIMATELY 976 +/-.</u>

COMMUNICATIONS: THE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN JUST BELIEVE, WHO MANAGES THE CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER FOR THE COUN-TY, AND DAVE WAS MOSTLY REASONABLE. 2 DAYS NOTICE OF CODE BLUE BEING OPEN WAS THE NORM, HOWEVER, ONE WEDNES-DAY NIGHT ONLY 5 HOURS NOTICE WAS PROVIDED FOR MEAL DE-LIVERY TO THE TOMS RIVER CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER. IF RE-DEEMER POLICY TO VOLUNTEER COOKS WAS TO COOK/BAKE RE-GARDLESS OF TEMPERATURE WAS NOT IN PLACE WE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOOD TO THE WARMING CEN-TER ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. MY OPERATIONS POLICY WAS TO GIVE THE COOKS/BAKERS A SUNDAY ADVANCE EMAIL DESCRIBING WEATHER PREDICTIONS AND RESULTING CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER BEING OPEN OR CLOSED FOR WED, THUS GIVING REDEEM-ER DISCIPLES AN IDEA IF WE WERE PREPARING MEALS IN INDIVIDU-AL MEAL CONTAINERS OR DAVE DELIVERS REDEEMER MEALS/ DESSERTS DIRECTLY TO THE CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER. DAVE ALSO ISSUED A WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATING EVERYONE ON HOW SUC-CESSFUL WEDNESDAY COOKING/BAKING EXPERIENCE WAS WHO WERE THE COOKS/BAKERS/INDIVIDUAL MEAL ASSEMBLERS.

<u>PROJECT SCHEDULE</u>: BEGIN 11/1/2023 & ENDED ON 03/27/2024.

<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF WEEKS</u>: 22 SCHEDULED WEEKS COOKING / BAK-ING NIGHT.

Number of weeks deliver meals to code blue warming center: 14

NUMBER OF WEEKS WHEN CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER WAS NOT DECLARED OPEN AND REDEEMER MEALS WERE PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED INTO INDIVIDUAL MEAL CONTAINERS AND DELIVERED TO STREET HOMELESS: 8

WITHOUT THE DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF THE REDEEMER DIS-CIPLES VOLUNTEERING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OUTREACH MINIS-TRY THIS PROGRAM COULD NOT BE COMPLETED, REDEEMER DISCI-PLES MAKE IT HAPPEN. THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE REDEEMER DISCIPLES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS MINISTRY WITH THEIR HEART AND HANDS COOKING/BAKING WITH THE LOVE OF GOD INCLUDED IN EVERY MEAL. I LOOK FORWARD TO REPEATING SOME FORM OF THIS PROGRAM FOR THE 11/2024 - 3/2025 FEED GOD'S SHEEP OUTREACH MINISTRY SEASON.

IN HIS SERVICE, DAVE PITTINGER

## **Elder's View**

Christ is risen! Alleluia! As I write this article, we are just a few days past the climax of the Lenten season (or perhaps I should say the climax of the entire church year), Easter Sunday! And what a season it has been. From trying to make that extra Wednesday service each week or maybe preparing that extra sermon (if you're Pastor), to also shopping for those last Easter basket items, hiding the eggs, and preparing the big Easter meal it can be a very busy and exhausting season. Still, when taking a moment to pause and look around the sanctuary, narthex, and fellowship hall at Redeemer there is a beautiful scene to take in during this Eastertide. Despite our busy lives, there are still many who sat together and helped with Wedne s-day lunch and dinner meals; the choir rehearsing their music; the altar guild changing the colors for nearly each day of Holy Week; a long list of those signed up for a prayer vigil; others prepared monologues for the Lenten series, "By My Hands, For My Sake," and, of course, still those gathering around God's Word together for Bible Study every Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The list does, indeed, go on and on and on. And about now certainly seems like an appropriate time to say thank you to all of you who have taken time to serve this season. But, as Easter passes, will we stop eating meals together? We will go back to our own lives separately and look forward to the summer vacations and fewer obligations? Certainly not.

This beautiful picture of Redeemer during the Lenten/Easter season, may also help us to look forward to what we will hear more about in the month of May. During this month we turn the page to the days of the early church after that first Easter morning when Christ had risen. The days after The Ascension of Our Lord and Pentecost give us another picture of the church, "The Fellowship of the Believers." We will hear about and ought to be reminded of a similar "beautiful scene" in a passage from Acts 2:42-47. Take a moment to read it:

42And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43And awe came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Wow. Can you picture it? Can you put yourself in that scene with your neighbors around you at Redeemer? I would try to illustrate it more with the words of this article, but I'm not sure I can paint a more wonderful image of the church than what we see in Acts. A scene of God's people eating, praying, worshiping, praising, and serving together even after Easter. Even after Christ had returned home to his seat in heaven. A time that will soon be upon us in the cycle of the church year.

So, this is my prayer: That this Bible-based, Christ-centered, welcoming family of God would continue to devote themselves to the teaching of God's Word, to fellowship with one another, and the breaking of bread and prayers even beyond the Easter season. That we would continue to serve our neighbors as any have need and receive our gifts with glad and generous hearts. And, most of all, *that the Lord would continue to add to our number day by day those who are being saved. Let us do this.* Let us look to the early church as an example of how to live in the joy of the risen Lord all year long. Let us talk to the person in the next pew over. Let us fellowship together. Let us pray together and hear God's Word together in Bible Study. Let us even welcome each other into our own homes. After all, we have "all things in common," as those who have been set free by the work of Christ on the cross. God be praised! He is risen! Alleluia!

-Tim O'Connor, Elder

### Wednesday's Bible Study is lead by Pastor Berteau. Class meets at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!



### Please Remember Our Homebound Members

*The following people are on our list*: Barbara Casper, Raymond Cheston, Carol Faulkner, Doris Horne, Eleanor Jacobs, Elisabeth Kohlmann, Carol Malloy, Carol Pawluk.

\*Please call the church office for an updated address list of our shut-ins if you would like to send them cards.



## Donald Wayne Cousens Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now available for this scholarship. It is a one-time award given to one student graduating from high school this year with plans to go on to college. The student must be an active member of Redeemer. The deadline for the application is Thursday, May 30, 2024. Please call Lisa Kane or email the office to request an application which can be mailed or emailed to you.



# May 2024 Givers of Time and Talent



### **Acolytes**

TBD

### <u>Altar Guild</u>

Fran Green, Pat McFadden, Linda Sak

### Counter(s)

Anneliese Hoffmann, Esther Cope, Betty Cousens, Ruthann Rescildo

### Greeter(s)

Saturday: Nancy Retzlaff & Sunday: Teresa Lieu

### Lay Readers

| May 5  | Jan Pusateri         |
|--------|----------------------|
| May 12 | Ed Sheetz            |
| May 19 | Nicholas Chmielewski |
| May 26 | Keith Brown          |

### Lay Servers

| May 4  | Mark V/Obed G | May 5  | Ed S/Dave P    |
|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|
| May 11 | Obed G/Tim O  | May 12 | Mike B/Mark V  |
| May 18 | Mike B/Dave P | May 19 | Keith B/Mark V |
| May 25 | Mike B/Dave P | May 26 | Obed G/Mark V  |

### Ushers

Betty Cousens, Rich Lofaro, Tom Stoltz



### **Church Council**

Keith Brown Michael Grau Sharon Goralski Jan Pusateri Eileen Seal YOU? Danielle Wagner YOU? Mark Vlossak Donald "Don" Bates Dorothy Polidoro Greg O'Connor Peggy Anslinger

President 848-448-0181 Vice President 712-212-4436 Treasurer 908-814-3935 Financial Sec. Please call office Recording Sec. Please call office Assim./Fellow. Christian Ed. 732-232-9930 Chr. Outreach Elders 908-415-5600 Property Board 732-323-8888 Shepherds 732-859-8770 Stewardship Trustee 732-642-7256

### Elders

Michael Beauduy Obed Gonzalez David Pittinger Frank Kravchak Timothy O'Connor Mark Vlossak 732-928-4980 732-278-2741 302-537-0669 732-657-0577

908-415-5600 (Head Elder)

### Staff, Committee, and Group Leaders

Pastor Reverend Daniel Berteau Deaconess Emerita (Retired) Helen DeMario Administrator Lisa Ruth Kane Music Director Linda Ashbey Organist Wendy Craig Saturday Evening Organist Marcus Hulse Preschool Director Danielle Wagner Altar Guild Please call the office Counters Please call the office Greeters Betty Cousens LWML Kathleen "Kay" Cole Lay Readers Please call the Office Sunday School Superintendent Evelyn Gonzalez Timothy O'Connor Ushers OR YOU? Youth Coordinator



Newsletter Deadline

The **cut-off date** for the *June/July* issue of the Redeemer Review is: <u>Friday, May 17, 2024</u>

Please submit your article to: redeemermanchester@gmail.com

### **Redeemer Lutheran Church of Manchester**

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Website: www.redeemermanchester.org YouTube Channel: Redeemer Lutheran Church of Manchester, NJ

Church office email: <u>redeemermanchester@gmail.com</u> Pastor Berteau's email: <u>rlcmpastor@gmail.com</u>

May 2024

#### **Worship Services**

Adult Bible Study & Sunday School

Sunday Bible Study: 9:00 am Sunday School: 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study: 10:00 am

#### ATTENTION PLEASE:

Please check the church's Google Calendar which is on our website or call the church office for the most up-to-date information for <u>ALL</u> worship services and fellowship events as the information in this newsletter is subject to cancelation or change. You can follow us on Facebook too.

Saturdays: 4:00 pm Sundays: 10:15 am