



You have a place at God's table.
You have a place here.

FEBRUARY 2023

A Note from Pastor Sara

So many fun things are happening in the life of the church this coming month, and I couldn't be more excited. After some unexpected illnesses, Sunday school, Confirmation, and youth group will all be back up and running starting the week of February 5. The short interactions I've had with all those in these age groups has been really positive, and I am really looking forward to getting to know these young people better.

Not only am I excited about family programming, but I am also really excited about our first intergenerational event of the year. Yes, this can be seen as family programming, but it's for more than just families. Sunday, February 19 following worship we will have a chili cookoff, with competition just as fiery as years before. But instead of it being a fundraiser, we will spend the time getting to know each other with some fun activities meant for the whole congregation. Be on the lookout for a sign up table and emails with more information. I really think this is an event you won't want to miss. Don't worry snowbirds, we will do more of these events when you're around too!

Now that we've packed up all the Christmas decorations, celebrated all the winter holidays, it's time to start preparing for Lent! This Lent we will be partnering with those at First Congregational church to have more meaningful worship and intentional conversations. This partnership will start on Wednesday, February 22 at 11:00am or 6:30pm with our Ash Wednesday service at Redeemer. Pastor Kristal and I will be co-leading the services, and we look forward to diving into our theme "seeking." Come with an open heart and mind as we seek out what God is doing together.

There's lots more going on at the church, but me writing about it would take up more pages than you want to read. If there seems to be a gap in ministries and activities offered, let's talk about how you can help fill it!

Pastor Sara

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Redeemer Council

Redeemer Council

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Grace and Peace from the Redeemer Church Council.

A new church year has begun! I know, the liturgical church year began with Advent, but now we are beginning a new year with respect to the business of Redeemer. You will likely either read this shortly before or shortly after our Annual Meeting. Thank you to all who attended the budget meetings and/or the Annual Meeting. These meetings provide an ideal opportunity to get detailed information about the activities of the past year, and to become informed of plans for the year to come.



The completion of the Annual Meeting includes the election of new members to the Church Council and to a lesser extent the various ministry committees. If you were asked, but were unable to commit to serving on the council, there still are many ways to get involved.

If for some reason you weren't asked, we still need your involvement. To learn more, read the committee reports in the weekly email or access them on the website. Find a committee whose activities align with your interest and reach out to the committee chair or Pastor Sara to learn of meeting times and how to get involved.

There is much to do, and "many hands make light work!" We are always looking for help with worship as well as feedback on how to enrich both worship and all the activities that surround Redeemer.

Although I won't be a member this coming year, I know the Council will value your feedback as I have in the past. Contact information is shown on the left. Please take the opportunity to share any concerns and your ideas for Redeemer's future.

John Loehrke
Council President



Thank you
to our
Council
members!

Redeemer News

We have a new website!

Have you checked it out?



www.redeemerplymouth.org



Pastor Sara was in attendance at the recent Plymouth High School Band concert, which took place on January, 9, 2023. Here she is with as many Redeemer band members as we could round up for the group picture. Photographed are: Zack Miller, Kate Lehn, Pastor Sara, Grace Poppe, and Noah Russell. We are sorry for those of you we missed.

Plymouth High School's next band concert is Monday, May 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the Plymouth High School auditorium.

Please continue to let Pastor Sara know about events in the community so she can have an opportunity to attend. She also announces these events in church so congregation members can attend as well. Thank you!

Welcome New Members

Brad and Kate Jaeger



Hello, We're Brad and Kate Jaeger!
Brad grew up in Cleveland, Wisconsin and works at Country Visions Cooperative managing the grain department. Kate grew up near Cross Plains, Wisconsin and works as a Project Manager at John Deere. We enjoy being involved in agriculture and are getting settled into our

home, north of Plymouth. Outside of work we spend time doing house projects, farming, snowmobiling and traveling. We're excited to welcome our first child at the end of March and are looking forward to being a part of the Redeemer family!

Redeemer News

Midweek Lent Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 22—11:00am & 6:30pm

Redeemer Lutheran

Wednesday, March 1—11:00am & 6:30pm

First Congregational United Church

Wednesday, March 8—11:00am & 6:30pm

First Congregational United Church

Wednesday, March 15—11:00am & 6:30pm

First Congregational United Church

Wednesday, March 22—11:00am & 6:30pm

First Congregational United Church

Wednesday, March 29—11:00am & 6:30pm

First Congregational United Church

Maundy Thursday, April 6—11:00am & 6:30pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Good Friday, April 7—1:00pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Lent Worship

We are doing a new thing! We will be worshiping with our neighbors from First Congregational United this Lent! Pastor Sara and Pastor Kristal will guide us as we worship and learn together on Wednesdays and Holy Week. We will share a meal after the morning service and before the evening midweek service.

Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services will be at Redeemer and the remaining midweek services will be held at First Congregational (1405 S.

Milwaukee St.)

Join us as we seek and explore questions that will expand our perspectives this Lent.



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Why should we observe Lent?



This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look

forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

Walk in
love

Ephesians 5:2

Redeemer Staff Email Addresses

Pastor Sara -
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Lorri - office@redeemerplymouth.org
Pam - treasurer@redeemerplymouth.org
Kathy - giving@redeemerplymouth.org

Upcoming Events

Children & Youth



Sunday School

Sunday, February 5, 10:15am
Gathering Room



Confirmation

Wednesday, February 1, 6:00pm
Wednesday, February 15, 6:00pm



Youth Group

Sunday, February 12,
1:00pm



Intergenerational Fun!

Sunday, February 19, 10:15am

Join us for fun activities and a chili cook-off! Sign up sheets are available in the Fireside Room. Please RSVP and let us know whether you will be bringing chili for the contest. We are also looking for donations of sides and beverages. Contact Jessica Nelson if you have questions 920-838-6259 jessican6244@gmail.com.



Love aces the test

Author Adele Calhoun describes life as "our 'open-book' test on love." How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: "Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others."

For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine's timeless words: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks like."

PLYMOUTH FOOD PANTRY

HELP LOAD

OUR SHELVES

LOAD OUR SHELVES!

January: Cereal



Redeemer Lutheran Church will be participating in a monthly community wide initiative called: "Load Our Shelves" to **benefit the Plymouth Food Pantry.**

Each month churches will collect one selected item to replenish the shelves at the Pantry. February's food item is **cereal**. There will be a Food Pantry bin across from the member mailboxes to place the items you bring. Thank you for helping with this local mission!

February Birthdays

2nd Karen Schueffner
Jauda Steinhardt

3rd Sharon Davis
Tristyn Dirks

5th Mary Peschke

6th Tom Gilbertson
Charlene Wimpler

7th Sean Gorman

9th Jane Uraynar



17th Esther Hill

18th Glenn Huehns

19th Charlie Monkoski

21st Bryan Lueck

22nd Jake Miller

26th John Fernsler

28th Gladys Peterson



The river of life

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

This & That



Going out of our way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.

Let's go bananas!

When the baseball team in Savannah, Georgia, got new owners in 2016, it also received a new name and identity — the Bananas! Adding pep to what often seemed a long, boring game, Jesse and Emily Cole offered a creative new experience, full of entertainment and spectacle. Players wear all-yellow uniforms (sometimes kilts), and the mascot is a banana named Split. Cheering on the team are the Banana Nanas senior-citizen dancers and the Man-Nanas Dad Bod Cheering Squad. The entire organization sets out to bring hospitality and joy, sending people home thinking, "This was the best experience of my life!"

What if Christians, individually and as a community, fully embraced our new name and identity, sharing radical hospitality and profound joy with everyone? Jesus has bought us from our former owner, sin, and given us a new name: Beloved of God. This identity may seem silly to some, just as the Savannah Bananas raised eyebrows initially. But before long, the delighted fans were going bananas for them!

With the same wild abandon and big-hearted outreach, the church — with its much-greater message — can spread love and goodwill, and have fun doing it!



February 2023

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
1808 EASTERN AVENUE
PLYMOUTH, WI 53073

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



seeking:
*Is this the fast
that I choose?*

Ash Wednesday - February 22

11:00am & 6:30pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Redeemer Lutheran Church, ELCA ~ 1808 Eastern Avenue, Plymouth, WI 53073 ~ 920-892-7431
office.redeemerplymouth@gmail.com
Worship Sundays 9:00am