

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS

# UNITY



JANUARY 2022 PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Loving People To Christ*

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# REDEEMER REFLECTION

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## UNITY

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

Where are we heading in 2022? As I ponder that question, I can't help but get excited for what the Lord has in store for Redeemer Lutheran Church in the upcoming year! As presented at our annual Voter's Meeting, we will seek to "...lay aside every



(Hebrews 12:1-2).

To do that, we will focus on being faithful in knowing Christ, growing in Christ, and going as He does; so that all people will come to know, love, and trust in Him! What this looks like for us then is a three-fold focus on worship, growing in faith, and

serving others that the Gospel may be shared, and lives transformed by the Word of God.

As we journey together through this new year, my encouragement is that as you worship faithfully, you invite a friend or two who does not know Jesus. Sit with them in church and pray the Lord works faith in their hearts.

Being equipped in the faith is very important as well. We would love for you, your family, and anyone you know to join us in one of our growth opportunities in this next year so that we all can mature in faith and be equipped for every good work. Sunday school is offered for the kids, youth group for teens, and several Bible studies for adults [and several more

*weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith."*

Therefore, since we are **surrounded** by SO GREAT a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside

**EVERY WEIGHT AND SIN** which clings so closely,

and let us run with **ENDURANCE**

the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus, the **FOUNDER & PERFECTER**

of our faith, **JOY**

who for the **JOY** that was set before him,

**endured** the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12: 1-2

[www.claimingJOY.yolasite.com](http://www.claimingJOY.yolasite.com)

adult studies] during the week are available as well. Then let us go forth serving one another and our community as Christ desires. Can you imagine, as the Redeemer Family is deployed into the community, what the Lord will do as His Word goes forth and the Gospel is proclaimed?



It is an exciting time for the church. It is an exciting time for the family of God at Redeemer Lutheran. With our eyes fixed on Christ, He will lead us in the way we are to go. With Christ leading, 2022 will be an exciting year. To be on this journey together as one big family is such a joy!

In Christ, *Pastor Zach*

## Here's what's happening!



### **Bible Study Classes: Ongoing**

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes: Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Lower Level. Craig's Bible Study, Upper Level Library.



### **Thursday, January 6: Chancel**

**meets at 4:30 p.m.** We hope this new time will make it possible for anyone interested in caring for the altar area to join us in serving as Chancel members. Come to the meeting to find out more about this rewarding service opportunity. All are welcome!



### **Thursday, January 20: LWML/**

### **Women of Redeemer will meet at**

**10:00 a.m.** and all women are welcome! Learn more about our involvement in missions, both local and in other areas of Michigan, as well as worldwide.



### **Saturday, January 22: Mobile Food**

**Pantry at Trinity.** From 10:00–11:30 a.m. This is an ongoing event on the fourth Saturday of each month.


Redeemer partners with Trinity in this outreach to serve the community. We need and ask volunteers to **be available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.** Hope to see you there!




**Saturday, February 5: The 2022 Theological Conference, *Beyond the Walls With Jesus*. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan. All are welcome! Cost is \$20/person,**



\$15/student, and livestream is free (but you must register to receive the livestream link). Lunch is included for those attending in person.



Michigan District, LCMS presents  
**2022 Theological Conference**  
February 5, 2022 | Our Savior, Lansing, Mich.



**Beyond  
the WALLS  
with  
Jesus**  
1 Peter 2:12

**Speakers:**  
Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer  
Rev. Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer  
Mr. Greg S. Baylor, JD  
Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Hopkins

**General \$20  
Student \$15**

[michigandistrict.org/theological22](http://michigandistrict.org/theological22)

## BEYOND THE WALLS WITH JESUS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 LANSING, MICHIGAN

*"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12).*

It is difficult to live honorably as a child of God when the church is increasingly marginalized and ridiculed. To be sure, this is a consequence of evil in the world, but it is also because God's people don't know the Scriptures and/or because they compromise what they believe or how they live in the world.

God's Word is clear. We are "in the world" (John 17:11; Philippians 2:15) as "elect exiles" (1 Peter 1:1), and the nations ("the Gentiles") will observe our good deeds through our speech and actions. Because of this witness, Peter writes, even they will "*glorify God on the day of visitation*" (1 Peter 2:12), and Paul says that one day "... *every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*" (Philippians 2:10-11).

This is an event you will not want to miss! Renowned speakers—Rev. Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer, Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Hopkins, Mr. Greg S. Baylor, Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier—will guide participants, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to pray and determine when to defend the "walls" of the Church and when to continue to shine and speak the truth in love, even though our witness may go against many of the current cultural topics.

The 2022 Theological Conference will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at Our Savior Lutheran Church; 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy; Lansing, Michigan. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with final comments at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$20/person, \$15/student, and livestream is free (but you must register to receive the livestream link). Lunch is

included for those attending in person.  
 Register today  
 at [michigandistrict.org/theological22](http://michigandistrict.org/theological22).

## TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY

The purpose of the *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter is to share what we have done or are doing to reflect Jesus in our personal lives, in our community, and in the world around us. The writing prompt for February is **Wait**.

As we wait for His second coming, we want to be a *reflection* of His light and love to a searching world. Our Faith Family wants to know how we can help you and your family, because as our community, you are an important part of our family.

Send comments, articles, information, and/or photos by the 15th of each month, to [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com), to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Rockwell	01/01
Dale Luksan	01/03
Don Zastro	01/03
Sharon Weatherwax	01/05
Fred Wait	01/07
Diane Seidzik	01/08
David Voss	01/09
Andy Schnebelt	01/10
Donna Wait	01/10
Bruce Harshe	01/13
Hayden McFarland	01/17
Josetta Kuntz	01/18
Bob Wilkenson	01/20
Jamie Brandt	01/21
Karlee Gamet	01/21
Meredith VanDerWeide	01/21
Tracy Jones	01/23
Vivianna Richardson	01/23
Bill Walter	01/23
Joshua Martin	01/24
Pete Gatz	01/24
Susan Belt	01/25
Janet Jean	01/29
Amber Doxtader	01/29
Ethan Anderson	01/30
Lucas Kane	01/30
Tom Simonsen	01/30
Katrina Holdorf	01/30
George Williams	01/31



**Dave and Kim McFarland**

**01/15/2000**

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## **ATTENTION: MARRIED COUPLES!**

Please take the time, if you haven't already done so, to send your anniversary information to the church office at [office@redeemerjackson.org](mailto:office@redeemerjackson.org) and to [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com) for the *Refection* newsletter. We only have the anniversary information for 17 couples in our church family. (I'm thinking we have quite a few more married couples than that!) Please contact the church office or send your anniversary information (names and date of marriage) to the emails above, or call the church office at 517-750-3100 so that we have that information available for our records. Have a blessed month, and the year to come!



## **HUGS**

by Dean Walley, shared by Lori Schairer



It's wondrous what a hug can do.  
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.  
A hug can say, "I love you so," or  
"Gee, I hate to see you go."

A hug is "Welcome back again," and  
"Great to see you! Where've you been?"  
A hug can soothe a small child's pain  
And bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug! There's just no doubt about it...

We scarcely could survive without it!  
A hug delights  
and warms and  
charms  
It must be why  
God gave us  
arms.

Hugs are great for  
fathers and  
mothers,  
Sweet for sisters,  
swell for brothers.  
And chances are  
your favorite aunts  
Love them more than potted plants.



Kittens crave them; puppies love them;  
Heads-of-State are not above them.



A hug can break  
the language  
barrier  
And make your  
travels so much  
merrier.

No need to fret  
about your store  
of 'em;



The more you give, the  
more there's more of  
'em!  
So stretch those arms  
out without delay and...



**GIVE SOMEONE a HUG  
TODAY!**

## UNITY

by Peggy Bennitt

*And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together  
in perfect unity.*

Colossians 3:14

Unity is a key component in—well, in almost everything we think, do or say. In our family life and marriages, in our Faith Family and its leadership, in our work environments and relationships; unity makes it all work. But the reverse is also true: if unity is NOT there, nothing works well, and eventually that lack will erode the endeavor and topple the venture, because the strength and support is missing. That old adage, “We have strength and safety in numbers,” is most certainly true when it regards unity.

*Two are better than one; because they  
have a good reward for their labor. For  
if they fall, the one will lift up his  
fellow: but woe to him that is alone  
when he falleth; for he hath not  
another to help him up. Again, if two lie  
together, then they have heat: but how  
can one be warm alone? And if one  
prevail against him, two shall  
withstand him; and a threefold cord is  
not quickly broken.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (KJV)

Throughout the Old and New Testaments of His Word, God gives us constructive and sage advice on this foundational part of any undertaking, the necessity of unity. He points out the peace that goes along with unity. He elaborates on the strength that unity builds. He enumerates the rewards that go hand-in-hand with the focus on and accomplishing of unity in all of our enterprises. He tells us that this “unity” will glorify God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

*May the God who gives endurance and  
encouragement give you a spirit of unity  
among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,  
so that with one heart and mouth you may  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ.*

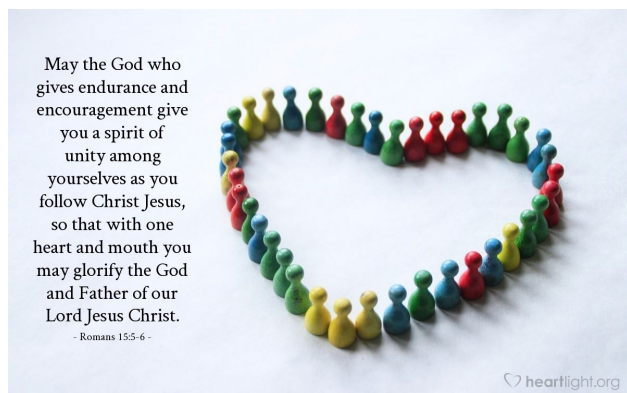
Romans 15:5-6

God assures us that our efforts to make unity a key part of all our activities as His people, will pay off in peace and a pleasant environment in which to do His work. He lets us know that it will be an effort, but it will be worthwhile and will help form a bond of peace. We are human, but if we make the

effort to follow the Lord's instructions, we will be rewarded with a unified spirit in whatever group we are involved.

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

Psalm 133:1



As we begin this New Year with a new pastor and a renewed focus on Worship, Growth, and Serving, let's also commit to that spiritual unity that will connect us all to our Lord and His will in all that we say and do in this time and place.

Lord Jesus,

We are amazed at how quickly and thoroughly You have answered our prayers for a capable and caring shepherd to move us forward and challenge us to use our many gifts and resources to get back to Your business of sharing Your Word and growing Your Faith Family at Redeemer.

Holy Spirit, unite us in prayer and spirit as we ask for Your guidance to do what is best for Your church and to accomplish Your will for us, our community, and Faith Family at Redeemer. Unify us, Lord, making us see through Your eyes and discern what is Your plan for us. Give us Your vision and curb every attempt by Satan to undermine Your Plan or to thwart our ability to see Your Plan

through to fulfillment. We are trusting in You to give us strength, focus, and the resources to complete every part of Your Plan.

Thank You, Father, for all You have done here in the past, and for what You have prepared for us to do in the future. Grant us peace and strength to move forward in faith to implement Your Plan in this spot in time. Grant us the joy, anticipation, and excitement of what we get to do for You! We thank and praise You that—*We Get To Do This*—and Your blessing is already on us! Walk with us as we go.

In Jesus' Holy Name we thank and praise You! Amen!

## LEADERSHIP BOARD 2022

Chairman	Andy Biegner
Vice Chairman	Josh Brandt
Secretary	Amanda Kapp

These people were elected by unanimous decision by the voting members of Redeemer Lutheran Church on December 5, 2021, to serve our congregation as the church's Leadership Board in 2022. We also thank Linda Kline, who continues to serve faithfully as Redeemer's treasurer.

We give thanks and praise to our God for the gift of these godly and faithful members who volunteer their time and energy for the good of the Lord's work in this place.

## TOGETHER

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

Yesterday afternoon I received (modern miracle) on my phone, a video taken



just yesterday morning, of our granddaughter singing in her school Christmas program. It is a public school, so it was not a sacred Christmas tune, but one that carried a very nice sentiment about the importance of being together on Christmas. Taken to heart, that *is* important even in a very non-spiritual sense. That is most evident because there are many who are not near those they love at this time of year. That's just plain tough.

Back to the video. Of course, our granddaughter was the most beautiful young lady there, in her red velvety dress and red hair bow. Gives me chills. Onward, Boppa. Yes, it was wonderful to see all these little ones (ages 5-6), sing their hearts out, hand motions included. "When We're Together." What struck me most was how much I wanted those little hearts, singing about how important it is to be with those they love at Christmas, to know and love the One who loves them the most.

In our increasingly "only-what-I-can-see-is-real" world, so many of those little lives have probably not run into the Savior who cherishes them, their families, and Who really wants to be together with them. And not just on Christmas Day.

Jesus Christ came to earth to die. He took on the human nature of His dear momma so that He could set a table that would welcome His family for eternity. Connected to Him, connected to one another. No lies. Nothing to hide. Full-on together. It's what those little hearts were bursting to sing about, without even knowing it.

My hope? Even in that public school gym, Jesus was there. Because He is

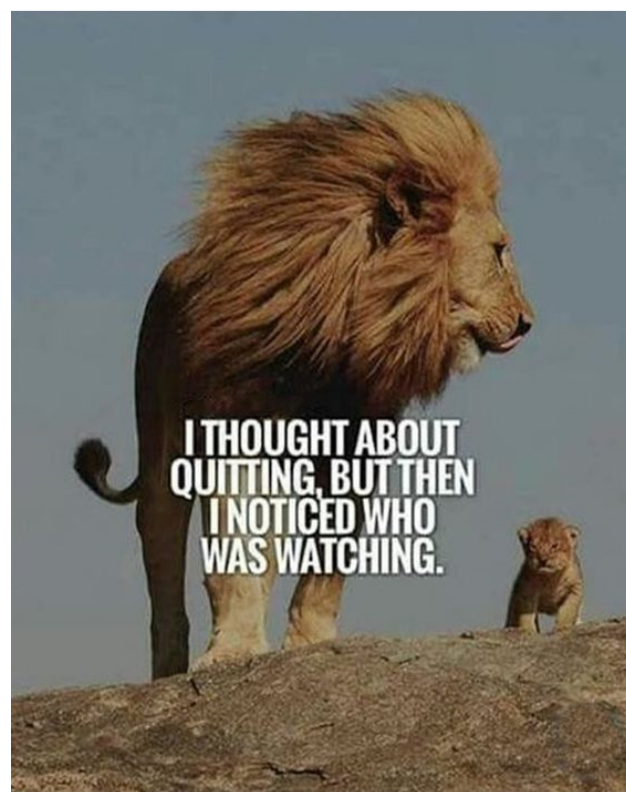
always calling, always beckoning,



always desiring that everyone get the invitation to that dinner He has prepared.

Now I realize that you will read this after Christmas Day, but not

too far past. The One called the "Desire of nations" has a Christmas list of His desires wrapped around the entire calendar year, every year. Today, call out to Him. Let Him know you want to be joined to Him and all His family. Truly. Every day of the year.



Sunday

Monday

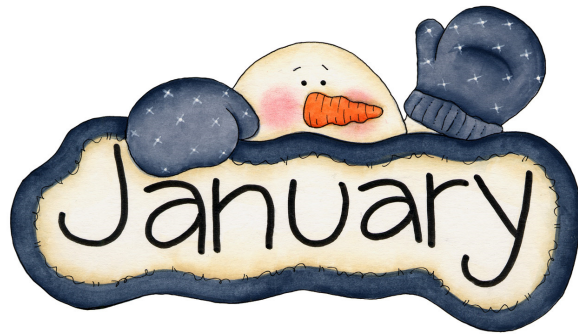
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



2022



Communion Service—C

<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Divine Service 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Family Bible Class in R.A.C. 9:15-10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Chancel 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult &amp; Children- Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Divine Service 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult &amp; Children- Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>LWML-Women of Redeemer 10:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult &amp; Children- Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>