


REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
HIGHLAND INDIANA

The Redeemer Reporter

A Member Congregation of The Lutheran Church  Missouri Synod

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9009 Kennedy Ave
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*From the Vicar's Desk
April 2020*

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. – Revelation 1:17–18

For many generations now, humanity has viewed itself as the course-setter of its own destiny. This isn't really new, sinful man has always believed himself to be in control. But with the ever-advanced pace of science and technology, man finally seems to have gained the level of control that previous generations could only dream of. We've split the atom, mapped the human genome, and put men on the moon—what *can't* we do?

The COVID-19 virus has done much to deflate our hubris, however. Seemingly overnight we were reminded that there are forces beyond our control. We were reminded that science doesn't have all the answers, and that technology cannot always fix everything. Above all, we were reminded that we are mortal, and that life is a preciously fleeting thing.

In some ways, it's fitting that all of this came to a head during the season of Lent. During Lent we are constantly reminding ourselves of the depths of our sinfulness, and remembering that death is the wage due for all who sin (Romans 6:23). The truth is, even if COVID-19 had stayed in Wuhan, or even if had never come about at all, death remains. Life can be taken abruptly, whether by disease, accident, violence, or otherwise. Death is the fruit of sin, and all have sinned.

But it doesn't end there. Lent is always undertaken in preparation for Easter. We consider our sins so that we understand the magnitude of God's great love for us, that He would give His Son to be our Savior from death.

Given the fear raised by this pandemic, we may well be tempted to stay away from church this Easter (though who knows, maybe by the time this reaches you this will all have blown over). But frankly, this is exactly what the devil wants at this time. The devil wants fear to rule the day, for temporary life to win over eternal life.

But it's precisely in times of fear that Easter matters the most. Only Christ has overcome death and the grave. Only Christ possesses the keys of Death and Hades. He can shut the doors that lead to death; He can open the gates that lead to eternal life. It's precisely when the fear of our mortality overwhelms us that we need to hear the message of Christ's triumph over death. That message, and the Messiah Who gave it to us, have been the sole things that has carried the Church throughout the ages. Through war and disaster, plague and famine, only Christ and His Gospel have given His saints strength and life in the face of death. His Sacraments are the only medicine that truly cures the curse of death. Nothing concocted in a laboratory can give this—only Christ can.

So as we continue to pray for the wellbeing of all, and seek to care for those around us, we turn our eyes to the Lord of life. Only in His wounds can we find refuge from the terrors of death. He is our light and our life, and He is faithful to all His promises.

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory?"

O death, where is your sting?"– 1 Corinthians 15:54–55

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Coronavirus Update 3/23/2020: Services Suspended

Dear members of Redeemer Lutheran Church, today Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb issued "Executive Order 20-08 (Stay at Home)" beginning March 25 through April 6. While this order exempts religious gatherings as long as they comply with the CDC recommendations, we think it necessary to cancel in-person worship services until April 6.

Since this is a temporary order issued in an emergency situation designed to protect the public health, we do not feel that it infringes upon our religious liberty or our right to assemble. We appreciate our Indiana state government providing an exception for the essential work of churches and those that provide spiritual care. However, we feel our resources can best be used if we suspend in-person worship services and provide quality opportunities to hear the Word of God through other means.

We will record/live-stream services as we are able on YouTube, Facebook, and the Redeemer website. Holy Communion can still be received by making an appointment with Pastor Kleinschmidt. The Church Office will be closed during this time, however, the executive order allows us to maintain the building, ensure security, and gather materials to work from home. Pastor Kleinschmidt and Vicar Stoltzman can be reached at home during the stay at home order, their home phone numbers have been printed in every bulletin. If you need those numbers or need to contact Stacy you can email: info@redeemerhighland.org

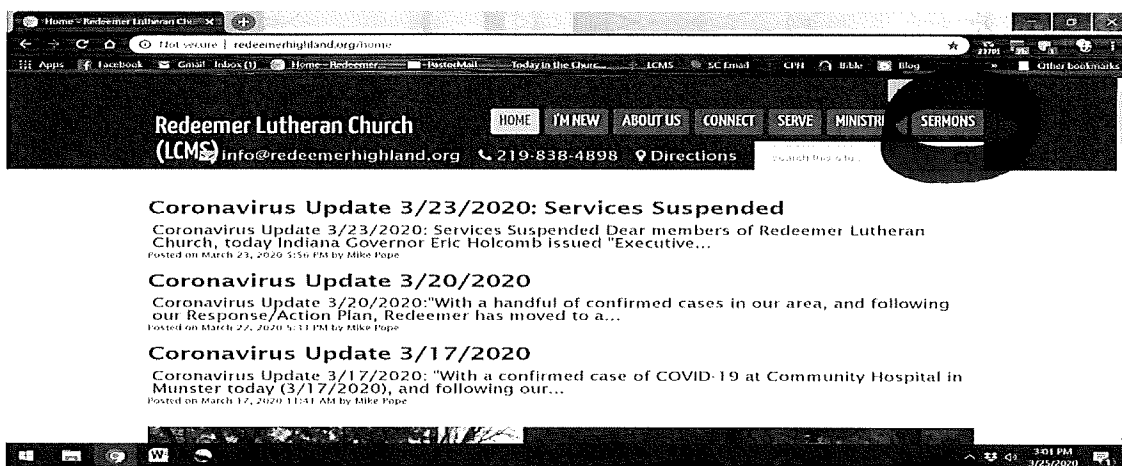
At this time we don't know what will be happening for Holy Week/Easter, we will update everyone when we have more information. Recorded services and information have been made available on our church website: www.redeemerhighland.org. And soon online giving for offerings will also be available. Please share this information with those Redeemer members who may not have access to the internet or email.

-Redeemer Congregation President Don Kaegebein, Vice President Dan Nieman, & Redeemer's Board of Elders

**Redeemer's Church Office is CLOSED March 25-April 7, 2020,
however all staff will be checking their church emails regularly.**

**Redeemer will NOT have in-person worship services the weekends of March 28 & 29 and
April 4 & 5 nor Mid-Week April 1. Services will be videotaped and posted online.**

REDEEMER'S SERMONS are being posted to www.redeemerhighland.org through YouTube
Click the SERMONS tab in the upper right corner of the home page and then click on which Service or Sermon you would like to view or to hear. *Please help Redeemer by remembering to Like and Subscribe to YouTube.*



BE STILL AND KNOW: Free resources are currently available online at www.cph.org to lean on Christ during uncertain times. There is a special edition of Portals of Prayer titled: "Portals of Prayer for Times of Trouble" under the **For Home** Resources. There are also many devotions for kids. All of the resources are available to download for FREE. In the **For Worship** Resources the "Orders of Daily Prayer with Hymns" is available to download. All of the resources are being made available for FREE from CPH for the benefit of our LCMS congregations' spiritual health during this physical health crisis.

APRIL CANCELED MEETINGS AND EVENTS DUE TO CONVID-19:

Trustees Meeting; Dartball All-Star Games; Mary & Martha's Circle Meeting; Easter Breakfast; Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt (*postponed*); Handbell practices; Choir rehearsal; LWML Prayer Breakfast.

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Please make sure to have like RedeemerHighlandLCMS on Facebook; have a current email address on file with the church office; verify Redeemer emails are not going to your Spam or Bulk Mail folders; and have a current phone number on file with the church office. (*If preferred, you can let the office know that the number is unlisted; the phone number will remain for church use only and not printed in the member directory.*)

OFFERINGS:

Offerings may be mailed to the church or you may access the online giving portal beginning March 29th through the Redeemer Website by going to www.RedeemerHighland.org. Go to the box at the top right labeled SERVE and on the drop down menu click Online Giving. On this page you will click a box that says GIVE NOW which will link to Redeemer's online giving page through VANCO. You will need to create an account and then you may choose to make a one time offering or you may set up a recurring offering.

WORSHIP ANEW (TELEVISED LCMS CHURCH SERVICE)

Northwest Indiana Area: Sunday 8 AM on Chicago's CW station WPWR **Channel 50 (Comcast 184)** or online at www.worshipanew.org. Nationwide it is on DIRECTV Channel 377 at 10:30 am CT on Sundays.

WJOB – RADIO 1230 AM is the NW Indiana regional broadcaster of "The Lutheran Hour" on **Sundays at 10AM & 6PM**. Programming is paid for by the Calumet Lutheran Mission Association.

MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, APRIL 27th at 10 AM!

DINING OUT FUNDRAISER AT MCALISTER'S DELI! Come join us **MONDAY, APRIL 27th** at McAlister's Deli on US 41 in Schererville from **10:30 am to 9 pm**. McAlister's will donate back 20% to Redeemer's Youth Group! *Please note: Please do not use coupons or discounts.* A flyer is printed on the back of this newsletter.

CALL DAY 2020: The **Vicarage & Deaconess Internship Assignment** service is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 28, at 7PM (ET)**. *Please keep Redeemer in your prayers as we pray for a new vicar to be assigned.*

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY plans to restart on **Wednesdays at 7PM** in the Multipurpose Room beginning **APRIL 29th**. Vicar Jacob Stoltzman will resume the "LifeLight: Ecclesiastes/Song of Solomon" study.

THE MARY & MARTHA CIRCLE is hosting a "Ladies Night Out" on **May 7** at Little Italy. It will be at **5:30 PM** and cost \$27. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in April on their bulletin board next to the north classroom. All ladies are invited...bring a friend!!

GARDEN CARE & MAINTENANCE: Weeding on your own schedule is always appreciated! *If you plan to do more extensive garden maintenance (such as trimming bushes or edging the lawn, etc.), please coordinate with Renee Reimer first to avoid duplicating efforts or in case something is being treated or receiving special care.* All volunteer help is needed and appreciated!

MOWERS ARE NEEDED! Please contact the church office if you are willing to mow the church lawns during this mowing season (April thru Oct.). More mowers means fewer turns! **Individuals (16 yrs. +), families or teams** are encouraged to sign up. The church has a riding mower and a self-propelled walking mower available. A schedule will be mailed out to volunteers by volunteer coordinators Greg & Judy McBroom.

MARCH 31ST DEADLINE TO DESIGNATE 2019 THRIVENT CHOICESM DOLLARS! If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, remember that your benefits may include Thrivent ChoiceSM, a charitable grant program, members can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable funds each year, including to help support your congregation [REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, HIGHLAND, IN].

THE 2020 CENSUS IS HERE and your community needs you to respond. The 2020 Census is the first to permit response online. Residents can respond to the Census online by computer, tablet or smart phone, by mail or by phone. Watch your mail for important reminders by the US Census Bureau now through the end of April! To respond online go to: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>



Registration for the 2020-2021 school year:

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year, opens February 1st. To save a spot you MUST fill out registration online forms and pay reg fee. Registration information is available on the table outside Little Lambs class room.

For more detailed information please contact Cyndy Bishop at (219) 838-4898, or e-mail at redemerslittlelambs@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE FOR REDEEMER'S 2020 VBS PROGRAM!

JUNE 8-12, 2020 ♦ 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Open to all children ages 4 years old through those who have completed 6th grade.

Watch for more information in the May newsletter.



THIS IS THE LETTER OF THE L.A.W.

April 2020

Ongoing and Previous Events:

Sunday Bible Study: All youth are invited to Sunday morning Bible study. We will be beginning a new study, based on the *Enduring Faith* Bible study, geared towards answering the common objects raised against the Christian faith by skeptics. From age of the earth questions to the historical accuracy of the Bible, we will cover many topics relevant to our modern age. *No class March 29th or April 5th.*

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our MOD Pizza fundraiser. *The youth made \$97.32!*

Summer 2020 Ark Encounter and Creation Museum: The 2020 summer trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum exhibits is set for **June 18th-19th**. If you signed up to go on this trip, please keep an eye on your email for further information, as well as any forms that need to be filled out. **All forms and payment must be handed in by May 28th.**

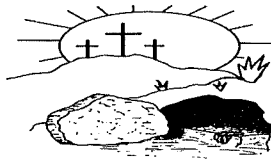
Upcoming Events*:

Easter Breakfast 2020 is canceled for Easter Sunday due to COVID-19.

Dining-out Fundraiser at McAlister's: Please support our youth by dining out at McAlister's on Indianapolis Blvd in Schererville on **Monday, April 27th**. A portion of your purchase will support our youth. *A flyer is included at the back of this newsletter.*

Youth Lock-in May 29th: All youth are invited to come to our lock-in for a night of fun, fellowship, and learning. Please sign up on the sheet posted to the youth board in the foyer. See Vicar Jacob for any forms.

**Due to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, all dates are tentative. Please pay attention to the Redeemer social media platforms, as well as your email, for updates from the church.*



Sunday School News - April 2020

December 1st through February 2nd we held our annual Souper Bowl of Caring hunger campaign. It was a very good year. Our Sunday School and Bible Class offerings for this time frame went towards the Souper Bowl drive as well as a door offering that was received after all three services on February 2nd/3rd. We also collected non-perishable grocery items. **Total dollars received went to fund Redeemers Share Cupboard Fund and was \$929.06. The non perishable grocery collection went to St. James Food Pantry and totaled 231 items.** Thank you to everyone who helped make this another successful year and another great show of love for our neighbors in need.

Offerings beginning on February 9th through Easter, are going to **Faith Comes by Hearing, Military Bible Sticks**. Designed to military specifications for safe and discreet use in low-light conditions, The Bible Stick is pocket size listening device installed with audio drama New Testament and selected Psalms for the troops. The cost for one BibleStick is \$25 and includes a DVD for the soldier's family. Visit militarybiblestick.com We will be receiving offerings for this mission until Palm Sunday. If you are interested in donating, you may make a check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church and mark the memo "Military Bible Stick" and mail to Redeemer to be included in the Sunday School/Bible Class offerings. The total offerings received will be sent to Faith Comes by Hearing, immediately after Easter. There is a great need for funds to fulfill requests and back orders for the BibleSticks for the troops!

April 5th – Due to not having in-person services Palm Sunday, the Sunday School children will not be singing.

April 12th - Easter Sunday! We will postpone the egg hunt to another Sunday for the children to enjoy.

A big thank you to those who have donated to the Egg Hunt this year: Sharon & Patrick Degard, Julie Evans and Elli Quandt. And to Laurie Schuetzenhofer who buys the candy and stuffs the eggs each year. It is greatly appreciated!

Most nursing homes and Senior facilities are not allowing visitors. This can be an especially trying time for those not able to have company or normal activities in their routine. **Special request below from Pastor Cory Wielert at Wittenberg Village:**

Wittenberg Village (from Facebook post, March 13)

Looking for something to do? Our residents would love to hear from you amid all the things going on. If you have time, we would be thankful if you were to write a letter to them, encouraging them and telling them you're thinking of them. Once we receive the letter we can read it over our closed television channel so all the residents may hear your wonderful words. We know some of the school children may be looking for something to do...so why not teach them how to write letters, especially to some of our amazing residents? Thank you in advance!

Our address is: Wittenberg Village c/o Rev. Wielert 1200 E. Luther Dr. Crown Point, IN 46307



SWADDLING CLOTHES: Shopping days are usually the third Saturday each month. **The next Shopping Day is Saturday April 18th from 9am to noon.** Donations needed!

Volunteer work days are usually the First and Second Thursdays of the month from 10:00am – 11:30am. Biggest needs are continued donations of clothing, sizes Newborn to

3T.; generally need is greater for boys clothes more than girls, and the larger sizes more than smaller ones. Also, they are in constant need of diapers, wipes, and baby bath products. Diapers sizes 4, 5, and 6 are the biggest need, and packages of wipes WITH A FLIP TOP (70+ count work best). See Pastor Eric for more information about the center or volunteering.

Please check their Facebook page for the most current updates, especially during this quickly changing time, at <https://www.facebook.com/SwaddlingClothesDyer/>



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(A Congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

9009 Kennedy Avenue ♦ Highland, Indiana 46322

Website: www.redeemerhighland.org ♦ Email: info@redeemerhighland.org

Follow us: www.facebook.com/redeemerhighlandlcms

Phone: (219) 838-4898

Services:

No In-Person Worship Services: March 28 & 29 or April 4 & 5, 2020

Saturday:.....6:30 p.m.

Sunday:.....8:00 a.m.

.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth Group & Adult Bible Study:

Sunday:.....9:15 a.m.

Special Services in Lent/Easter:

No In-Person Mid-Week Worship Service: April 1st

Maundy Thursday, April 9.....7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae, April 10.....7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 11.....6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 12.....7:00 a.m.

Easter Festival Service, Sunday, April 12.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth Group & Adult Bible Study:

Sunday:.....9:15 a.m.

Staff:

Pastor: Eric Allan Kleinschmidt

Vicar: Jacob Stoltzman

Admin. Asst.: Stacy Broviak

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pastor and Vicar are OFF on Fridays

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED March 25, 2020 through April 7, 2020 and

Monday, April 13, 2020

It is the mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church through worship, fellowship, witness, service and education to proclaim Jesus Christ as God's Son and the world's Savior, crucified and risen from death to give us NEW LIFE

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER



CHARITea EVENT

Redeemer Lutheran Church Youth Group

April 27th 2020
10:30AM-9PM

Drop your receipt in the bin
on the counter and we will
donate back 20%
Please no coupons or
discounts

328 Indianapolis Blvd
Scherverville Indiana

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