




REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
HIGHLAND INDIANA

The Redeemer Reporter

A Member Congregation of The Lutheran Church  Missouri Synod

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Redeemer Lutheran Church
9009 Kennedy Ave
Highland Indiana 46322
(219) 838-4898

From Pastor's Desk
April - May 2021

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! ² My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.”

– Psalm 84:1-2

This Easter represents a return for many congregations to the Lord’s house for worship. Just a year ago, the pews were empty and congregations did their best to provide reverent worship from a distance on very short notice. This year, with people vaccinated (please see the other side of this letter for some concerns and guidance about that topic) and more people who have had the virus and recovered, we’re looking forward to have a more typical Easter celebration at Redeemer.

However, the virus hasn’t gone away, and there is still a lot we don’t know about contagion and spread, and many may still be concerned about gathering in groups as much as they desperately long to be in the Lord’s house. A year ago, Redeemer entered into the restrictions cautiously, slowly, and deliberately by steps and stages, and it is wise that as restrictions are lifted, we exit the same way. There is finite space at Redeemer, and as more of our members and visitors from the community gather for worship, people are going to be closer and closer in contact. We ask you to continue to do your best with social distancing and the precautions we’ve become used to over the last year. Still, there is always going to be some level of risk that remains, and individuals have to make their own decisions about how much risk they are willing to accept. For that reason, we are going to continue to provide the live-streaming of our worship services and recording of Sunday School for the foreseeable future—even as we continue to gather in person for worship and, hopefully soon, provide some form of in-person Sunday School.

I know many of you long to be back at Redeemer as much as the Sons of Korah longed to be back in the Lord’s Temple so long ago. We all want things to be “back to normal.” We’re not there yet. So if you have concerns, please stay home and utilize the worship and study resources provided. I am still offering small group/individual Communion by appointment, either here at church or in the home. Online Bible study of the book of Psalms will resume after Easter. Over the past year there has been a wealth of good Lutheran worship and study material posted online by many churches, if you are able, please assist your loved ones who may not be as tech savvy in locating these resources. Sheltering in place and worship in the home are not ideal and are not good for the Christian in the long term, and it has already been a long term, but hold on a little while longer if you have concerns.

The good news is that regardless of where we are, there is one place where Jesus is not—in the tomb on Sunday morning! The pandemic has forced us to consider death in a more real way than a lot of us have in the past. We realize that we are not as in control of our health and wellness as we thought we were. That all our fancy science and technology doesn’t have all the answers and can’t fix everything that can ail us. We realize that our days are indeed numbered. That’s why Jesus is so important. That’s why hearing His Word of life and receiving His gifts in worship so essential. Jesus saves from death and disease. He is the only true remedy for the things that afflict us. And when He rises, He does so with a real human body, to show us that just as He lives we shall live also. COVID can’t steal you away from Jesus, nor can cancer, or COPD, or any disease or tragedy that we can name. Christ is living! Christ is victorious! And just as He lives, you shall live eternally as well.

Happy Easter everyone!

Ethical Questions and Concerns about the COVID Vaccines

Those of you in Sunday morning Bible class know that we've been tracking and discussing the development of the COVID vaccines for several months now in an effort to remain informed and faithful in our use of this medicine and technology. Thankfully, our Missouri Synod has done the same work and produced a very helpful set of charts and information sheets that are available at the Synod website www.lcms.org. Of particular importance is the discussion on which vaccines were developed or tested on cell lines (primarily HEK-293) obtained from aborted babies—I have posted President Harrison's Q&A response below.

It is my pastoral opinion and guidance that Christians CAN receive the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines without sin or moral compunction. However, Christians should AVOID the Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca vaccines because they appear to have been developed utilizing tissue procured from abortions, and there are other alternatives.

From Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President LCMS and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and the Office of Nation Mission's Life Ministry:

Are COVID-19 vaccines related to abortion? The science regarding this is complex. The two vaccines currently approved by the FDA — Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna — were not designed, developed or produced using cell lines derived from aborted human fetal tissue. Other vaccine candidates — including the UK-approved Oxford/AstraZeneca (and Johnson & Johnson) — did use human fetal tissue, however. The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines did perform laboratory tests using cells derived from abortions (one from 1972 and another from 1985) to confirm the final vaccine quality (as, surprisingly, do many other commonly used medications and vaccines). For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines relate to abortion, I encourage you to consult the website of the pro-life bioethicists at the Charlotte Lozier Institute and the list they maintain there: lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/. According to their assessment, neither the Pfizer/BioNTech nor Moderna vaccines contain any substance derived from aborted human fetal cells.

I know this is a delicate issue and can be highly politicized, but many of you have asked me for clarification and guidance especially with the Johnson vaccine becoming available and being touted as the “One Shot” alternative. The devil is indeed crafty! He often likes to use convenience against us. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are available as a more ethical alternative and I encourage you to look for, ask, and make sure that those are the ones you are receiving.

I also want you to know that if you received one of the more morally objectionable vaccines without knowledge or before you knew that any of this was an issue, and you feel guilty, or your conscience is burdened, there is forgiveness and freedom with Christ. If it bothers you, bring it to Jesus in confession (and individual private confession and absolution is always available by appointment) and receive the forgiveness and life Jesus won for you on the cross.

These vaccines are miraculous gifts from God to preserve and protect life from the results of sin, death, and disease. God has given mankind the wisdom and ability to create medicines and life-giving technologies and we rejoice in those gifts. Like every other good gift from above, mankind always finds a way to pervert, ruin, and take God's good gifts too far. Even so, our God is good and He continues to provide for us. We are called to take up our cross and follow Christ, to honor God with our bodies, and that sometimes means making difficult choices about our health and being informed about complex topics. Death is not the end of life for the Christian, however we should be good stewards of the life God has given us on this earth, we should value all human life from conception to unassisted natural death, and we should promote and rejoice in those gifts of medicine and technology that protect and preserve the life God has given each individual. Let us follow Christ through the valley of death and into life everlasting. – Pastor Eric Kleinschmidt

WORSHIP SERVICES, SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AND BIBLE STUDIES INFO

THE SUNDAY 8 AM SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE EVERY WEEKEND,

which is then available for later viewing as well. The Live Stream link and Order of Service attachment is emailed every week as part of the Redeemer Reminders.

Links are also available on the Redeemer website at www.RedeemerHighland.org.

Maundy Thursday 7PM, Good Friday 7PM, Easter Vigil (Sat.) 6:30PM and 7 AM Easter services will also be Live-Streamed.

CAN BE FOUND AT: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/REDEEMERLUTHERANCHURCHHIGHLAND](https://www.youtube.com/c/RedeemerLutheranChurchHighland)

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES (April 2, 2021):

TRE ORE SERVICE (Three Hours) at St. Paul, Munster features a series of seven sermons preached by circuit pastors interspersed with readings and hymns during the three hours Christ hung on the cross. You may stay for the whole service or come and go as you require. **St. Paul's, Munster 12-3PM.**

TENEBRAE centers on a series of lessons, psalms, and liturgical texts that reflect on the Lord's crucifixion and our repentance. *Tenebrae* is a Latin word meaning "darkness." This service is called the service of darkness because lights and candles are gradually dimmed and extinguished throughout the service. Communion will not be served at the Tenebrae service. **Redeemer at 7PM.**

REDEEMER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: A video based online Sunday School curriculum is available on Redeemer's YouTube page, which goes "live" at 6 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Short videos for families to watch on their own schedule following The Growing in Faith Bible Storybook (*provided by Redeemer*). Age appropriate questions are posed to promote family discussions. Each weekend's new lesson link is emailed with the Redeemer Reminders.

There will not be an Easter Egg Hunt this year, however children attending Easter services, may pick up a special Easter goodie bag after service in the church foyer.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Kleinschmidt continues to welcome the whole family in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. between services.

Letter of the LAW(Lutherans at Work)

Polar Bear Picnic: The youth raised \$528 for the Polar Picnic back in February.

Bible Study: Youth Bible study continues in the Gospel of Matthew Sundays at 9:15am in the North Classroom.

CALENDAR NOTE: The office will be **CLOSED** on the Monday after Easter, April 5th.

THE TUESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY has resumed class on **Tuesdays from 9:30-11 a.m.**

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE WEEKLY REDEEMER REMINDER EMAILS, please give the church office your current email address with permission to add you to the Redeemer email list. If you gave it before, you may want to check your SPAM or BULK MAIL folders. The Redeemer church office will only send out weekly reminder emails or an occasional Redeemer News email for urgent needs/alerts or notification of member funerals. Included in the weekly reminders are also links to the Sunday School lesson, 8am Live Streamed service & the Order of Service. Email info@redeemerhighland.org

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will restart on **Wednesdays at 7PM** in the Multipurpose Room beginning **APRIL 7th**. Vicar Charles Nemecek will begin a new study "LifeLight: John Part 1".

TRUSTEES will meet on **Sundays, April 11th (a week later due to Easter) & May 2nd at 12PM** in the MPR. Many projects are in the works and planned for this year. Trustees are always looking for more help! Come to a meeting or speak with Stacy or A.J. Broviak about project needs.

A CHURCH WORK DAY will be held on **Saturday, April 17th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** In addition to the Trustees, any pre-teen, teenager or adult who can use tools; move pull weeds, spread mulch, or use a ShopVac is encouraged to come help out! *Please do not bring young children for safety reasons. Thank you.*

LITTLE LAMBS REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR is open to all 3-5 year olds. *Students must be toilet trained.* To save a spot you MUST fill out online request form to receive registration forms and pay the registration fee on **the RedeemerHighland.org** website. For more detailed information please contact Cyndy Bishop at (219) 838-4898, or e-mail at redemerslittlelambs@gmail.com.

OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE HELP NEEDED!

GARDEN CARE & MAINTENANCE: Weeding on your own schedule is always appreciated! *If you plan to do more extensive garden maintenance, please coordinate with the church office first to avoid duplicating efforts or in case something is being treated or receiving special care.* All volunteer help is needed and appreciated! *The Garden Committee is a sub-committee of the Trustees.*

MOWERS ARE NEEDED! Please sign-up on the green sheet on the new South bulletin board in the foyer (or call or email the church office) if you are willing to mow the church lawns during this mowing season (April thru Oct.). **Individuals** (16 yrs or older), **families** or **teams** are encouraged to sign up. The church has a riding mower and a self-propelled walking mower available. Please sign the volunteer sheet or contact the church office. Schedules will be sent to volunteers. *Greg & Judy McBroom are in charge of the mowing crew.*

SWADDLING CLOTHES CENTER at Grace Lutheran Church, Dyer, is a ministry of our Hammond Circuit Congregation Churches, to help mothers & babies in need. Swaddling Clothes is helping families with pre-ordered Curbside Pickup of diapers, wipes, and clothing on the third Saturday of the month (**April 17th & May 15th**). Visit www.facebook.com/swaddlingclothesdyer to register by commenting to the announcement with information requested by 12pm the Thursday prior to pick up. **Donations needed! Diapers (especially SIZE 5 & 6); wipes (refills w/flip tops); and clothing (esp. girls 3T).** **Volunteers are also needed!** See Pastor Eric for more info about volunteering. **THANK YOU to all of you that have generously given your time, donations, and efforts to this ministry.**

DINING OUT FUNDRAISER The Redeemer Youth Group will benefit from a Restaurant Fundraiser at Panera Bread on Indianapolis Blvd. in Schererville. On **Sunday, April 25 from 4:00 – 8:00 pm**, 20% of participating sales will be donated back to the youth. **You can participate in the Fundraiser by ordering at the cafe or online for Rapid Pick-Up®, Curbside, and Delivery* using the promo code listed on your flyer.** **Paper flyers may be turned in or digital flyers shown when ordering in person.** A flyer is available in this newsletter. Thanks for your support!

CALL DAY 2021: Live Stream and Names/Photos will be found at <https://callday.ctsfw.edu/>

The **Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignment** service will be **Monday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. (EDT)**. The service will take place in Kramer Chapel and will be livestreamed.

The **Candidate Call Service** where graduating seminarians will receive their first call, including Redeemer's 2019-2020 Vicar Jacob Stoltzman will be held in Kramer Chapel and livestreamed on **Tuesday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. (EDT)**. *Please keep Jacob and his fellow seminarians in your prayers.*

ZANDSTRA VOUCHERS AVAILABLE APRIL 23RD! Stop by the Vicar's office to purchase one or more. **Each voucher is \$15** (youth receive \$3). Please note, Zandstra's does not give cash back or allow partial balances to carry over on vouchers. Vouchers will be on sale until the end of June. Please make checks payable to L.A.W. The Redeemer Youth benefit from the sale. **Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9th.**

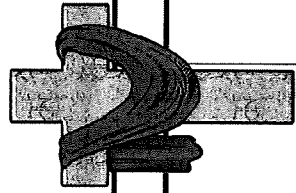
THE HAMMOND CIRCUIT JOINT ASCENSION DAY SERVICE will take place at Redeemer Lutheran Church this year on **Thursday, May 13th at 7 PM**. Please join in celebrating the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven with a combined service of the Hammond Circuit LCMS churches.

2021 GRADUATES & MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL Please contact the church office **BY SUNDAY, MAY 16TH** with information regarding Redeemer family members graduating or graduated from high school, college or with other degrees this year. Please tell us their name, school, degree and future plans (i.e. college attending/major). Also, please let the church office know if you have a family member currently serving in the U.S. military, please tell us which branch of the military, their current rank and where stationed. Graduates & military personnel will be listed in a Sunday bulletin and in the June/July newsletter if received **BY SUNDAY, MAY 16TH!** Leave a note in the secretary's "IN" box, email info@redeemerhighland.org or call 219-838-4898.

JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MAY 17th at 10 AM!

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY will be held on a **Sunday, May 23rd at Noon** (following late service). The meeting's main purpose is to nominate and elect congregational officers & committee representatives to Church Council. **Installation of Officers and Church Council Representatives will occur at the end of the meeting.** Additional projects or needs may also be addressed at the meeting.

† **WHERE CAN YOU SERVE?** New members are always needed to help on ALL committees! †
Evangelism ♦ Trustees ♦ Stewardship/Planning ♦ Fellowship ♦ Christian Education ♦ Youth/Post High School

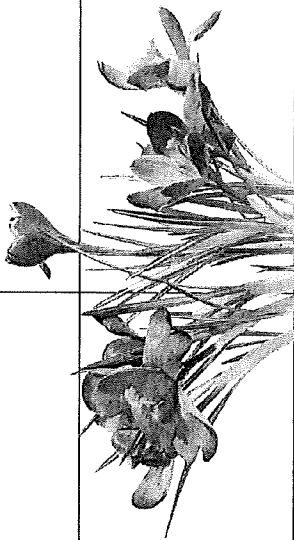


April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 EASTER 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group <i>—Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Easter Festival	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting	6 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 11 a.m.—12 p.m. Little Lambs Easter Party 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	7 7:00 p.m. LifeLight <i>(New Study Begins)</i>	1 Maundy Thursday 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Divine Service	2 Good Friday 12-3 p.m. Tres Ore Service at St. Paul's, Munster 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service	3 6:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
11 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group <i>—Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion 12 p.m. Trustees Meeting	12 6:30 p.m. Stewardship & Planning Meeting 7:30 p.m. Church Council	13 9:30 a.m. Pastors' Circuit Conf. (Grace, Dyer) 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	14 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	15 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel	16 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off	17 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Church Work Day 11 a.m.—12 p.m. Swaddling Clothes Curbside Pickup (at Grace) 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
18 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group <i>—Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion	19 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting	20 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	21 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	22 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel	23 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off <i>Zandstra's Voucher Sale Begins</i>	24 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
25 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group <i>—Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion 4-8 p.m. Panera (Schererville) Youth Dining Out Fundraiser	26 7:00 p.m. (EDT) Vicarage & Deaconess Assignment at CTSFW	27 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. (EDT) Call Service at CTSFW	28 1:00 p.m. LWML Exec. Bd. Meeting (MPR) 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	29 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel	30 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off	

PASTOR ERIC KLEINSCHMIDT ON VACATION

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group — <i>Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion 12 p.m. Trustees Meeting	3 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting	4 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	5 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	6 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel	7 <i>Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off</i>	1 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group — <i>Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion	10 6:30 p.m. Stewardship/Planning Meeting 7:30 p.m. Church Council	11 9:30 a.m. Pastors' Circuit Conf. At Redeemer (NC) 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	12 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	13 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 7:00 p.m. Hammond Circuit Joint Ascension Day Service at Redeemer	14 <i>Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off</i>	15 11 a.m.—12 p.m. Swaddling Clothes Curbside Pickup (at Grace) 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
16 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group — <i>Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion	17 10 a.m. June/July Newsletter Deadline 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting	18 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	19 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	20 11 a.m. –12:30 p.m. Class Picnic & End of Year Program (Location TBD)	21 <i>Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off</i>	22 <i>Pentecost</i> 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
23 <i>Pentecost</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group — <i>Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion 12pm Congregational Assembly	24	25 9:30—11:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	26 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	27	28 <i>Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off</i>	29 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
30 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult/Family Bible Study and Youth Group — <i>Online Sunday School</i> 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion	31 <i>Memorial Day</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED					

APRIL – MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



Redeemer Lutheran Church

(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:

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

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

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

Family Bible Study & Youth Group:

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

Sunday School weekly video lessons on available online at 6 a.m. Sundays

Staff:

Pastor: Eric Allan Kleinschmidt

Vicar: Charles Nemec

Admin. Asst.: Stacy Broviak

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

Pastor & Vicar are OFF on Fridays.

The Church Office will be CLOSED: Mondays, April 5 & May 31, 2021

SPECIAL SERVICES AT REDEEMER – LENT/EASTER!

Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday Divine Service

Friday, April 2 at 7:00 PM – Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 3 at 6:30 PM – Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, April 4 at 7:00 AM & 10:45 AM – Easter Divine Services

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

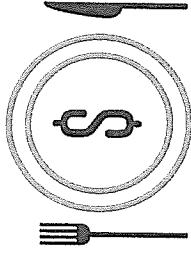
WORSHIP ANEW Northwest Indiana Area: Sunday 8 AM on Chicago’s CW station WPWR Channel 50 (U-Verse channel 8 or 1008/Comcast ch. 8 or 184) or online www.worshipanew.org.

If you have moved or will be traveling out of town, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has a church locator tool to help you find a church to attend. Go to: <https://locator.lcms.org/church>

FIND REDEEMER’S ONLINE GIVING LINK at www.RedeemerHighland.org



Click the **VANGO** link on the lower right side of the homepage.



Panera
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HELP SUPPORT

LAW (LUTHERANS AT WORK)

WHERE 144 US Highway 41, Schererville, IN 46375

WHEN Sun, Apr 25th **FROM** 4:00pm – 8:00pm

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WE’RE COMMITTED TO YOUR SAFETY.

We offer a variety of ordering options so you can support the cause in whichever way you feel most comfortable. Services vary by cafe.



*20% of total net sales from your designated fundraising event will be donated to your organization. Gift card, catering, hook and order pickup on Friday are not included in the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit <https://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>

Learn more at Fundraising.Panerabread.com

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