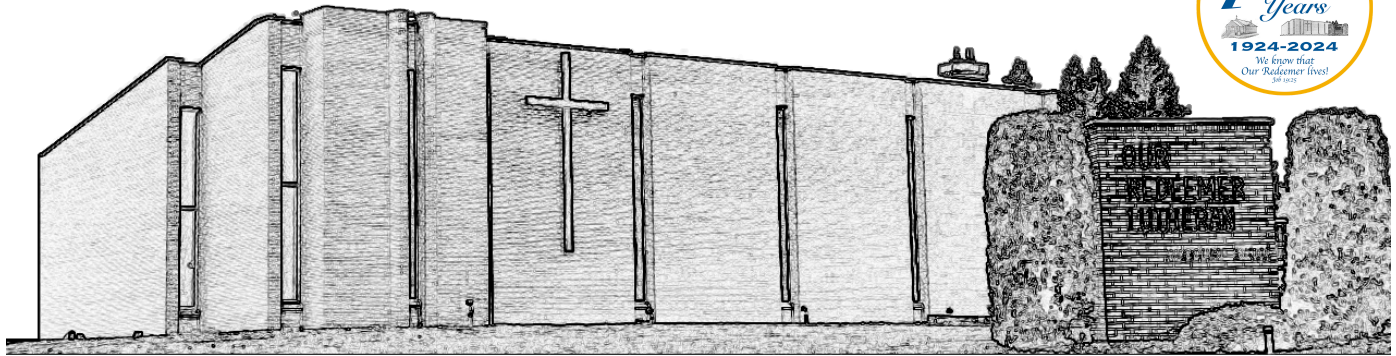


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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God." (Luke 24:50-53, ESV)

When I attended seminary down in St. Louis, every student was assigned to a "fieldwork congregation." It was a local church where seminary students would get their first exposure to church work: leading the liturgy, going with the pastor on visits, eventually preaching sermons themselves. My church was Trinity Lutheran Church in rural St. Charles. It was a beautiful church and I have many great memories of that farming community. One tradition I remember fondly was their annual Ascension Day service. Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday (forty days after Easter) and it would be an evening service with a dinner beforehand to celebrate the seminary students who helped out. They would always gift us with a nice book and a seminarian always preached the service. (I got to do it twice!)

In every church I've served as a pastor since seminary, I've made it a point to offer an Ascension Day service. (Ours this year is May 9th at 7:00 P.M.!) Part of it is nostalgia of those services in seminary, but mostly it's fascination with the celebration of Jesus leaving His disciples and returning to His Father. Jesus leaving this earth would seem like an occasion of sadness. But St. Luke tells us differently. Upon leaving them, he writes "And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God." (Luke 24:53)

The Ascension of Jesus is indeed a day of great joy! It is, along with Pentecost ten days later, effectively the birth of the Church. It is also a wonderful and joyful thing that our Lord has gone to His Father's right hand. The One who suffered, died, and rose for us is with the Father. The Scriptures refer to Jesus before God as our "Advocate." He is there on our behalf. We need never doubt that our prayers are heard. We need never doubt that God is for us.

When candidates run for public office, they always say that they'll be there "for their constituents." However, they end up in Washington...or Lansing...or Madison and end up voting for wars and spending and policies that no one actually wants. Many of us feel frustrated that we're not represented in the places of power.

There's no place of greater power than the throne of God. And you are more than "represented." The One who reigns at His Father's right hand is one with you. He's shared in our struggles. He is the One who truly "advocates" for the children of God. That gives us as the Church abundant reason to rejoice!

Join us on Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 P.M.!

In Christ our Lord,

Pastor Ruesch
Pastor Ruesch



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. Divine Service
10:30 A.M. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Youth Group

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:30 P.M. Catechism Vespers (Sept.-Apr.)
7:00 P.M. Divine Service

Our Redeemer is a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a denomination of nearly 2 million members in the United States and Canada. Learn more about The LCMS by visiting LCMS.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/TheLCMS.

MINISTRY STAFF

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HERE TO SERVE!

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SAVE THE DATE!!! Sunday, August 4th, 2024

On this date, we will hold our 100th anniversary celebration! Plans are underway for a special service, meal, and fellowship. Follow the newsletter, bulletin, and Facebook page for updates

100TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATES!

We are beyond excited to start planning the 100th Anniversary! We will use this page to keep you the loop of what's going on!

Date and Time: August 4th, 2024

Open Church starting at 3PM, Service at 4PM, Meal and more socializing at 5PM

On The Menu: BBQ Chicken & Pork with various sides provided by church members

In process of creating a new church directory and a cook book for the ages.

We will have some apparel and other items available to help spread the word and the spirit of Our Redeemer.

We are looking for photos and information on the history of church please reach out to committee members with information!

Stay up to date via Facebook or the website!

Our next meeting date is May 16th at noon. All are welcome to help plan this special celebration!

OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

- Noah Ruales-Chancay 4/14
- Jasmine Lindow 4/13
- Jessabelle Lindow 4/13
- Asher Lindow 4/13

AFFIRMATION OF FATIH

ADULT CONFIRMATION

FUNERAL

FIRST COMMUNION

ADDED TO MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFERS IN

TRANSFERS OUT

RELEASES

- Kathleen Pollock (Death) 4/9

ATTENDANCE

TOTALS

April 3rd	4
April 7th	110
April 10th	9
April 14th	101
April 17th	15
April 21st	107
April 24th	16
April 28th	85

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WE ARE HAVING A RUMMAGE SALE!!

Jeff & Lisa Swanson have picked up the torch and are heading up a church rummage sale this year! Items can start to be dropped off May 23rd and the rummage sale will take place on June 15th!!

Are you ready to rummage?!?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 5th - Faith W.
- 6th - Dana B.
- 10th - Sharon B.
- 10th - Curtis V.
- 11th - Donna D.
- 11th - Sally C.
- 17th - Ava M.
- 18th - Sofia R.
- 20th - John E.
- 20th - Logan M.
- 22nd - Tyler N.
- 22nd - Randy W.
- 24th - Joseph M.
- 24th - Tricia O.
- 24th - Bradley H.
- 25th - Barbara C.
- 25th - Claire V.
- 26th - Janice F.
- 26th - Michael W.
- 27th - Emily M.
- 31st - Kenneth J.



KIDS DAY CAMP

Information \$40 PER CAMPER

- 5yrs-11yrs
- June 3rd & 7th
- July 8th & 12th
- 9-3PM
- Lunch Included
- Outdoor activities
- Gardening
- Sports
- Crafts
- Devotion

THE SAND LOT



The Cure™

TEEN COACHING & LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP
IRON MOUNTAIN, MI

relate. create. connect.

Hi!!

Claire here! Lately I have felt pulled to do more youth development and spiritual enrichment! I'm working with The Cure to provide 4 Kid's Day Camp dates this summer at The Sand Lot. More information can be found online at www.TheSandLotNiagara.com

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5th - Randy & Wendy W.
- 12th - James & Amy H.
- 13th - Rudy & Lisa V.
- 15th - David & Patricia W.
- 17th - Donald & Beverly H.

HERE TO SERVE!

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LWML RECAP & INFO.

We are looking forward to our Ladies Banquet on May 6th! The theme for this years banquet is "Recipe For Life"! We are looking forward to having delicious food and presentations throughout the night! If you have purchased tickets-see you there, if not, feel free to reach out and see if you can still attend. The cost is \$13 for adults and kids under 6 are free.

Informal end of year meeting will take place on May 13th.

LWML North Wisconsin District Convention will be held in Appleton at the Paper Valley Hilton, June 13th-15th. Details are online about event. Contact Caren for more information. Always an awesome weekend of fellowship.

Caren and Gals

ZONE 2 RALLY

Zone 2 Rally is on May 18th at SS Peter 7 Paul's in Houghton, MI. The rally starts at 9:30am Eastern Time. The day starts with a bible study written by Rev. Howie & Sue Neider. Always a wonderful day of Christian fellowship. Contact Caren for reservations by May 12th if you would like to attend!

We are gathering shoebox items for the rally. There are baskets for donations in the narthex.

STAMPS FOR A MISSION

our Lutheran women's Missionary League began collecting used postage stamps in 1993 when the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod office in St. Louis, Missouri, ended this project. Our North Wisconsin District has worked with many different gentlemen over the years to sell our stamps. We are currently taking our stamps to a gentleman in Green Bay, WI. Our stamps we sold five different times in 1994, and the total amount sold to help support our mission was \$345.49. The year-to-date total now is \$13,897.66, praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Please continue collecting your stamps! You can bring them to the Zone 2 Rally or they can be placed in the LWML MITE box!!

Thank you for supporting this mission!

Celebrating 100 Years!



- 1 Did you have your picture taken for the directory? If not, please see pastor or Heather for images in the narthex after church.
- 2 We need recipes! Old or new, anything that you enjoy!
- 3 Do you have any pictures of our church throughout the years? We are gathering and creating a history!
- 4 Know anyone who used to be members of our church? We want will send out formal invitations to our celebration and don't want to miss anyone!

Please turn in any of the above items to the church office!

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO ALL ACTIVITIES

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Life Newsbytes

France Becomes First Country in the World to Make Killing Babies in Abortions a Constitutional Right

– France made history by becoming the first country to embed a fictitious “right” to abortion in its constitution. Lawmakers from both chambers of parliament convened on March 4 and easily passed this horrific amendment. The bill in this liberal nation garnered an overwhelming 780-72 vote in favor, prompting nearly the entire joint session to rise for a prolonged standing ovation. Leading pro-life campaigners were saddened to see politicians clapping for killing babies. French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to safeguard abortion against any potential future attempts to protect women and their babies ... Earlier this year, during the annual March for Life in Paris, about 20,000 people urged lawmakers to reject the pro-abortion change. Nicolas Bauer, associate researcher at the European Centre for Law and Justice, said the proposed amendment is a radical move by pro-abortion leftists. “By inserting it into the constitution, the left wants to make abortion sacred as if it were a value at the heart of the national ‘social contract,’” Bauer told the Catholic News Agency last year. “From being a crime, abortion has become a banal medical act, and the left now is seeking to make it a fundamental right, superior to every other right.” (LifeNews.com, 3/4/24)

Speaking up For Life

“We were created by a loving God, redeemed by His self-sacrificial act of love, and called to love one another. God loves us; therefore, our life has value. God calls us to love; therefore, our life has purpose. And this, dear friend, is the greatest purpose.” *Hannah Nissing, Bulldogs4Life, the Y4Life team at Concordia, Nebraska*

“This, dear friends, is why Christ’s ascension is a good goodbye. Jesus leaves you with everything! He has done it all. The grave is empty. Death is defeated. Life is yours. So, people of God, ‘Why do you stand here looking into the sky?’ You have an ascension victory to celebrate and an ascended Savior to proclaim!” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

“Jesus became incarnate as embryo, fetus and teenager, infant and adult. In this way He consecrates humankind of all ages, appearances, and abilities. The Good Lord comes close in skin and bone, the same as ours. He remains near with muscle and blood like we have. He humbly bears these sicknesses and gently carries these sorrows of ours. Jesus has crucifix-ed God on you, ever the servant and once-for-all sacrifice.” *Pastor Michael Saleminck, Lutherans For Life*



ORDER LFL RESOURCES AT CPH.ORG

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

~SUNDAY SCHOOL - SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M. (ENDS ON 5/12)

~CATECHISM VESPERS - WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30P.M. (SEPT.-APR.)

~BIBLE STUDY - SUNDAY AT 10:30 A.M. & THURSDAYS AT 10 A.M.



Lutheran Witness

Sign up to receive the Lutheran Witness Magazine! Please contact the office for more information.

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STEWARDSHIP More Than a Negative

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.

THIS MONTH'S SCHEDULE

MAY 1ST

**Elder: Jim Sleik
Altar Guild: Debbie Sleik**

MAY 5TH

**Elders: Bob Roska & Jim Reed
Altar Guild: Maridol Bey**

MAY 9TH

**Elder: Jim Sleik
Altar Guild: Maridol Bey**

MAY 12TH

**Elders: Jim Reed & Bradley
Linsmeyer
Altar Guild: Lisa Swanson**

MAY 15TH

**Elder: Jim Sleik
Altar Guild: Lisa Swanson**

MAY 19TH

**Elders: Jim Reed & Rob Kuehl
Altar Guild: Cindy Koller**

MAY 20TH

**Elder: Rob Kuehl & Dana Bey
Altar Guild: Cindy Koller**

MAY 22ND

**Elder: Bradley Linsmeyer
Altar Guild: Cindy Koller**

MAY 26TH

**Elders: Dana Bey & Rob Kuehl
Altar Guild: Cindy Koller**

MAY 29TH

**Elder: Jim Sleik
Alter Guild: Sue Rochon**

LOOKING TO SERVE? CONTACT THE OFFICE OR TALK TO PASTOR!

May 2024

May 2024							June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, & Sunday School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm Ladies' Spring Banquet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Board of Elders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Service at Optalis Rehab and 5:30pm Catechism Vespers 7:00pm Divine Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Day Off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00am Men's Group Breakfast & Bible Study
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00pm Divine Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Matins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Divine Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ascension of Our Lord 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Divine Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Day Off 	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Day of Pentecost 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, & Sunday School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWD Spring Pastors' Conference at Our Redeemer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Matins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Matins 7:00pm Divine Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Day Off 	25
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Holy Trinity 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Day Off 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Divine Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Day Off 	



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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THE REDEEMER READER MINISTRY STAFF

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